

BMT Seniors meet Thursday

The Back Mountain Senior Citizens will meet Thursday, Oct. 7 at 12 noon for lunch at Mercy Center, on the campus of College Misericordia, with a business meeting to follow.

Club members are reminded to continue to save "Pull tabs for dialysis" and "Cancelled postage stamps" for veterans hospitals.

Members are reminded of the Project HEAD Halloween Costume Ball on Oct. 24 at Konefal's restaurant in Edwardsville. The cost is \$15 per person and the reservation deadline is Oct. 7. Signup will begin at 11 a.m., dinner at noon and a costume parade.

Celebrating October birthdays are Helen Misson and Joe Baltrushes.

The club is non-denominational and welcomes new members. For information, call Lillian at 696-1828 or Marie at 696-3095.

Public swimming at Dallas Middle School

Dallas School District has announced the public aquatic programs for fall and winter 2004-2005 at the district natatorium.

Public swimming sessions are Wednesdays and Fridays, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. and Sunday afternoons from 2 to 5 p.m.

The pool is open to the public for lap and recreational swimming during those times. No one under 18 will be admitted without a parent or guardian. Proof of residence and \$2 daily fee apply.



Winner at the fair

The Shission family of West Wyoming recently won a free compost bin that was part of the Master Gardener Backyard Conservation education at the Luzerne County Fair. The bin giveaway was sponsored by the Penn State Cooperative Extension Luzerne County Master Gardeners. Pictured with the compost bin is Melissa Shission holding her daughter, Kaleigh Shission.

Tips to avoid conflicts with bears

With fall here, many Pennsylvanians are spending increasing amounts of time outdoors. This also is when black bears become more active, setting the stage for an increase in bear sightings and possibly encounters.

Mark Ternent, Pennsylvania Game Commission black bear biologist, noted that bears will soon start consuming massive quantities of food to prepare for the upcoming denning season, which begins in mid- to late-November. This is when some bears may inadvertently end up in more populated areas as they search for food.

Ternent offered suggestions on how to reduce the likelihood that your property will attract bears and how to best react when a bear is encountered.

"While Pennsylvania bears are mostly timid animals that would sooner run than confront people, residents should know a few things about how to react if they encounter a bear, or better yet, how to avoid an encounter altogether by reducing the likelihood of attracting bears to your camp or residence," Ternent said.

Ternent stressed there are no known records of a Pennsylvania black bear killing a human, and there have been fewer than 15 reported injuries resulting from black bear encounters during the past 25 years in the state. However, recent deaths caused by black bears in New York (2002), New Mexico (2001) and Tennessee (2000) have given the Game Commission reason to be concerned. Pennsylvania's bear population currently is estimated at 15,000 animals. Cases of habituated bears becoming increasingly bold because some Pennsylvanians are failing to keep food

away from bears are equally troubling.

"Pennsylvanians need to understand that when bears become habituated to their homes or communities, it can lead to conflicts and possibly serious injury," Ternent said. "Feeding wildlife, whether the activity is intended for birds or deer, can draw bears into an area. Once bears become habituated to an area where they find food, they will continue to return, which is when the bear can become a real problem for homeowners and neighbors."

"Even more disturbing are the reports we continue to receive about people attempting to hand feed bears or lure bears onto a porch or deck with food for better viewing or photographing. These situations can cause bears to become more aggressive, even break into homes, which has occurred in Pennsylvania. No one should be encouraging bears to behave in this manner; bears are better off if they remain wary of people."

Ternent listed five suggestions that could prevent attracting bears to a property:

Play it smart. Do not feed wildlife. Food placed outside for wildlife, such as corn for squirrels, may attract bears. Reconsider putting squash, pumpkins, corn stalks or other Halloween or holiday decorations outside that also may attract bears. Even bird feeders can become "bear magnets." Audubon Pennsylvania offered tips for how to safely feed birds for those in prime bear areas, including: restrict feeding season to when bears den, which is primarily from late November through late March; avoid foods that are particularly attractive for bears, such as sunflower seeds, hummingbird nectar mixes or suet;

bring feeders inside at night; or suspend feeders from high crosswires.

Keep it clean. Don't put out garbage until pick-up day; don't throw table scraps out back for animals to eat; don't add fruit or vegetable wastes to your compost pile; and clean your barbecue grill regularly. If you feed pets outdoors, consider placing food dishes inside overnight. Encourage your neighbors to do the same.

Keep your distance. If a bear shows up in your backyard, stay calm. From a safe distance, shout at it like you would to chase an unwanted dog. If the bear won't leave, call the nearest Game Commission regional office or local police department for assistance.

Eliminate temptation. Bears that visit your area are often drawn there. Neighbors need to work together to reduce an area's appeal to bears. Promptly report road-killed deer to ensure their quick removal. Ask area businesses to keep dumpsters closed and bear-proofed (chained or locked shut).

Check please! If your dog is barking, or cat is clawing at the door to get in, try to determine what has alarmed your pet. But do it cautiously, using outside lights to full advantage and from a safe position, such as a porch or an upstairs window. All unrecognizable outside noises and disturbances should be checked, but don't do it on foot with a flashlight. Black bears blend in too well with nighttime surroundings providing the chance for a close encounter.

More information is available at (www.pgc.state.pa.us) by clicking on "Wildlife," and then selecting "Black Bear in Pennsylvania."



Irem Women's Golf Association tournament fights cancer

The Irem Women's Golf Association recently sponsored a "Rally for the Cure" golf tournament at the Irem Country Club. Ninety-six ladies participated in the captain and crew format followed by a luncheon and prize ceremony in the main dining room. The event raised \$4,500 for the Susan B. Komen Breast Foundation through the contributions of hole sponsors, prize donations, the purchase of mulligans and a raffle. From left are Joanne Bittner, committee member; Estelle Laux, chairman; and Joann Freeman, co-chairman.

Help haunt the library

The Committee for the Haunted Library is selling a variety of previously owned Halloween books and decorations at the Back Mountain Memorial Library to defray the costs associated with the Haunted Library fundraiser which will take place October 22-24, and 29-30.

Also, chances on a basket filled with new Halloween decorations and accessories are available at the library.

Help is needed during the Haunted Library five-day event. Character roles are still available for any adult who would like to be part of the haunting scene. Any adult wishing to assist the committee in any way may call the library at 675-1182.



The Meadows Nursing Center honors teen volunteers

The Meadows Nursing Center, Dallas, recently praised teen volunteers for donating more than 900 hours of service to the 130 residents at the center during the past year. Certificates of appreciation and thank you gifts were presented at the annual awards pizza party. The teens helped at the center by visiting with residents, assisting with therapeutic activities and socials, passing ice, beauty shop and physical therapy escort and manicures. Students who require community service hours for school or church projects are welcome to join the fall teen volunteer program. Those interested should contact the volunteer department at 675-8600 ext. 195. Evening and weekend hours are available and training is provided. From left, seated, are Devon O'Brien, Stephen Takacs, Matthew Flanagan and Matthew Crane. From left, standing, are Kaylie Lumley, Marilyn Gregorski, volunteer coordinator; Amanda Melski, Rebecca Vodzak, Amber Verazin, Roxanne Erdman; Betty Sorchik, volunteer coordinator; and Michelle Keller.

Easter Star soup sale

The Dallas Order of the Eastern Star is taking orders for homemade chicken noodle and vegetable beef soup, at \$3.75 per quart. Orders must be called in by Oct. 11, with pick-up Oct. 15. Call 675-7247 or 675-4893 to order.



Visitation Day Columbus Day, October 11

Students (grades 8 - 11) and parents are invited to visit our Upper School.

Attend classes and lunch; tour the campus; learn about admission and financial aid, academics and extracurricular opportunities.

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