

Oratorical and essay contest entries sought

High school students and home-schooled students of the Back Mountain have been invited by Dallas American Legion Post 672 to compete in the 66th annual National High School Oratorical Contest. The contest has been arranged with the full cooperation of the local school districts who will assist with the contest arrangements.

The subject of the prepared oration portion of the contest must be some phase of the Constitution of the United States, emphasizing the duties and obligations of a U.S. citizen. The prepared oration must be the original effort of each contestant and must be 8-10 minutes in length. The three national finalists receive scholarships of \$18,000, \$16,000 and \$14,000, respectively.

In addition, contestants who win their state finals contest and represent their state at the national contests will receive no less than \$1,500 in scholarship funds. The American Legion will pay the expenses of state winners at the national contest.

The Post is also sponsoring an essay test. The topic this year is "America — Sweet Land of Liberty." All essays must be no less than 600 words and no more than 1,000. The local school must determine its own winner by Feb. 5. Prizes will be awarded locally and at the state level.

Students interested in either competition may find complete rules at their respective schools or by contacting Clarence J. Michael at 675-0488.



Some WWII veterans who attended the Legion program, from left: Ed Roth, Tom Reese, Buddy Bayer, Joe Drust, Ed Buckley, and John Good. Standing: Kep Gottshalk, Michael Crisci, Nick Chorey, Bob Johnston, Loren Fiske, Len Groboski, Pat Kelly, George Horwatt, Elwood Ide, Willis Ide, Tom Templin, Irwin Messick and Welton Farrar.

New books at Back Mountain Library

The Back Mountain Memorial Library, 96 Huntsville Road, Dallas, announces the addition of the following books to their collection:

EXPRESS

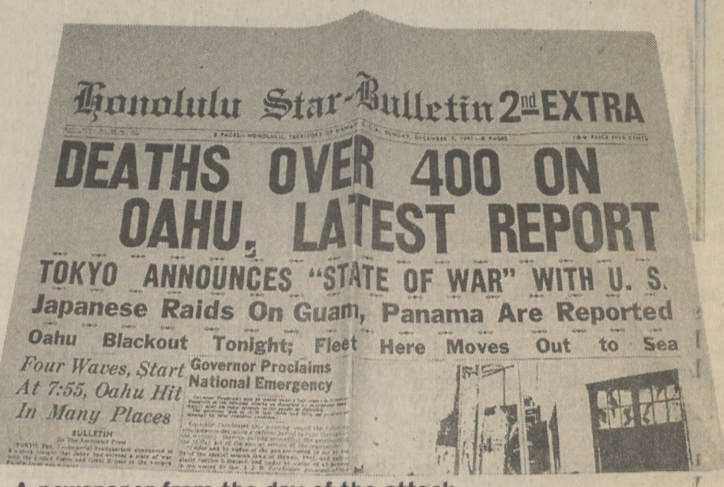
- "Night Fall" by Nelson DeMille
- "Loop Group" by Larry McMurtry
- "Skeleton Man" by Tony Hillerman
- "Metro Girl" by Janet Evanovich
- FICTION**
- "Rumpole and the Penge Bungalow Murders" by John Mortimer
- "Loop Group" by Larry McMurtry
- "Circle of Grace" by Penelope J. Stokes
- "I am Charlotte Simmons" by Tom Wolfe
- "Skeleton Man" by Tony Hillerman
- "How to be Lost" by Amanda Eyre Ward

- "Suspect" by Michael Robotham
- "Falling Awake" by Jayne Ann Krentz
- NONFICTION**
- "Hallelujah! the welcome table" by Maya Angelou
- "The End of Faith" by Sam Harris
- BIOGRAPHY**
- "Divorced from the Mob" by Andrea Giovino
- "Beauty Beyond the Ashes" by Cheryl McGuinness
- MYSTERY**
- "Till the End of Tom" by Gillian Roberts
- "Thief in Retreat" by Aimee Thurlo
- AUDIOTAPES**
- "True North" by Jim Harrison
- YOUNG ADULT**
- "The Princess Present" by Meg Cabot
- SPECIAL DONATION**
- "Judy Moody, M.D.: the doctor is in!" by Megan McDonald, gift of Brownie Troop 3855 of Lehman, Theresa James, Troop Leader.

Legion notes Pearl Harbor Day

On Saturday, Dec. 4, 2004, members of the Daddow-Isaacs American Legion Post 672 gathered to commemorate the Dec. 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor, swapping stories over breakfast with fellow veterans from Korea, Vietnam, the Persian Gulf War, the Cold War and World War II. Pearl Harbor Day, which once sent a shiver down the spine of every American, now passes almost unnoticed as America slides into historical ignorance. Peace and prosperity have dulled us to the meaning of pain and have disabled the language of suffering, according to many veterans. Sixteen million Americans served in uniform during WWII; 400,000 were killed and 670,000 were wounded. The total of soldiers killed was 28,504,000 and civilian deaths numbered 46,403,000.

At the event, Cdr. John M. Emil Sr., Tom Reese, Rev. William Lewis, and Clarence Michael spoke on Pearl Harbor remembrances. Mary Reese sent remembrances which were kept by her



A newspaper from the day of the attack. late husband over the years. For more information, contact publicity chairperson Clarence J. Michael at 675-0488.



"Santa" entertained local children when they took a break from shopping.

Dallas Rotary takes children on Christmas shopping spree

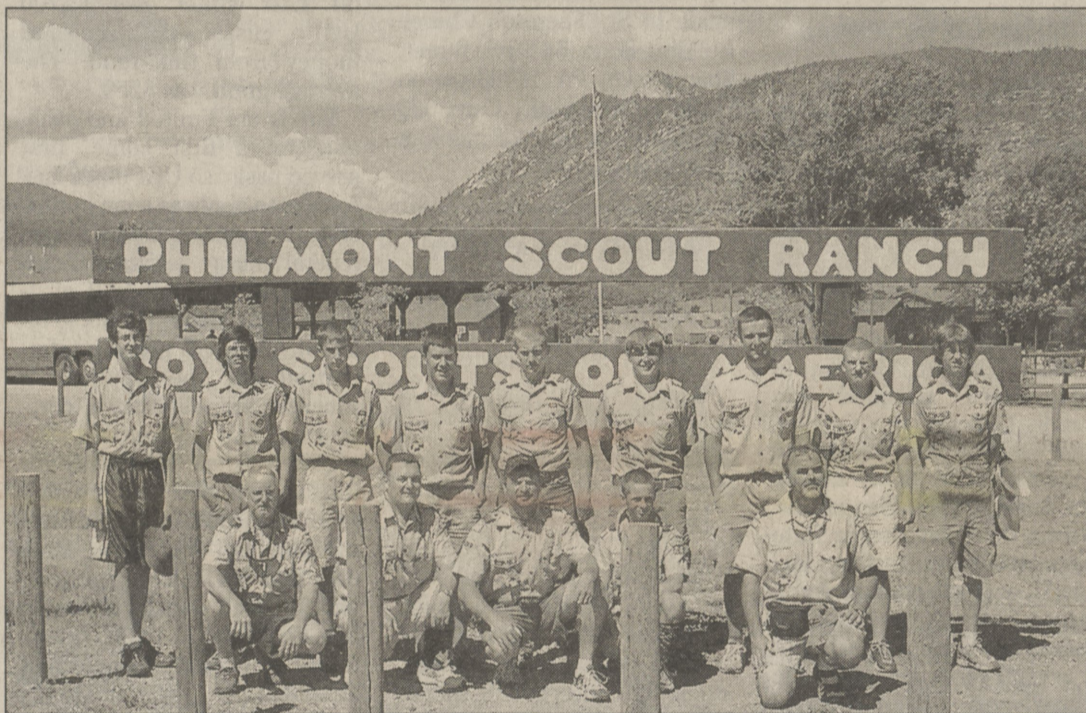
For almost 30 years, the Rotary Club of Dallas has hosted a Christmas shopping spree for 30 Back Mountain children. This year they added another 15 children from the Northwest School District. All were treated to a day of food, fun and gifts.

Their day started with a breakfast sponsored by McDonald's in Shavertown, then they were off to the Bon Ton at the Midway Shopping Center where they were treated to coats, boots, hats, mittens, outfits and anything else they needed.

Each child was paired off with a chaperone from the Rotary Club and embarked on their wishes-come-true shopping day. Many Rotary family

members and friends joined in to help the children make their purchases. The Rotary Club gave each child spending money and a generous discount coupon from the Bon Ton. The Rotary Club raised \$5,000 for the event through their annual charity golf tournament and food stands at the Luzerne County Fair and the Dallas Harvest Festival.

The children were visited by that jolly man in a big red suit who had even more presents to give them as well as games, stuffed animals, cookies and candy provided by the Bon Ton. At the end of the day the children boarded a school bus provided by Emanuel Bus Lines and headed back to Dallas to rejoin their parents.



Scouts take on high adventure

Boy Scouts from Troop 241, Lehman, attended the Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron, New Mexico and is the premier high adventure scout camp in the country. The scouts spent two weeks backpacking in the mountains of New Mexico at elevations up to 14,000 feet. During the trek, the scouts participated in horseback riding, mountain climbing, rifle shooting and other activities.

Anyone interested in joining Troop 241 can contact Scoutmaster Mark Pall at 477-3594. Scouts and leaders in the photo are, kneeling from left: Mike Caffrey (Asst. Scoutmaster), Keith Cornia (Asst. Scoutmaster), Mark Pall (Scoutmaster), Ryan Wagner, Bill Tomayko (Asst. Scoutmaster).

Standing: Michael Caffrey, Matt Poremba, Kevin Tomayko, Steve Cornia, Bill Holena, Matt Pall, David Harrison, Rick Jayne, Tom Perry.

Volunteers assemble food baskets for needy families

Volunteers at the Back Mountain Food Pantry recently assembled more than 150 Thanksgiving food baskets for needy families in the Back Mountain. A record amount of donations and clients' needs have kept volunteers busy all year long as well as during the holiday season. Many of the families are elderly and others have small children.

Contributions to the food pantry help them avoid difficult decisions between food and fuel or food and medicine. Cash donations were used to augment the baskets with fresh turkeys and fresh vegetables.

Donations are always needed to help the pantry feed the hungry, especially during the cold winter months ahead. Call the pantry at 696-2917 for information on how you can help or if you need assistance.



Volunteers completed the large task of filling more than 150 orders for Thanksgiving Day meals. Shown in photo, from left: Sandy Valenti, Teresa Brown, Carol Eyet, Jennie Hill.

Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count

Would you like to volunteer to be part of the National Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count? Your assistance will help to gain a better understanding of the winter bird populations in our region.

Contact any of the following people to volunteer:

Dallas Christmas Bird Count (December 26), contact Jim Hoyson at 696-4925 or Birdder@aol.com

Tunkhannock Christmas Bird Count (December 18), contact Rick Koval at 829-4381 or koval@nblt.org

The Greater Wyoming Valley Audubon Society includes both Luzerne and Wyoming counties.

Kingston Twp. parking ordinance reminder

Kingston Township Winter parking ordinance is effective through March 31, 2005. Under this ordinance, residents are prohibited from parking vehicles on streets between the hours of 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. daily. Vehicles also are not permitted to be parked on streets during snowstorms, or for eight hours after the end of the storm.

SEAN'S SKI TIPS



Q. Are helmets a good idea?
A. Yes, for the same reasons that car seat belts are a good idea. But the best reason to wear a helmet is that it never falls off, so after a spill you can get up and keep on going rather than walking uphill for your hat and goggles.

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