

Bowl for kids March 19

Big Brothers/Big Sisters of the Bridge will host its 23rd annual Bowl for Kids' Sake on Saturday, March 19, at Stanton Lanes in Wilkes-Barre. Other regional sites hosting the event are Shadowbrook Lanes in Tunkhannock and the Bowl Arena in Hazleton.

Interested persons are asked to form a team of five bowlers and collect pledges in advance of bowling one game on March 19. Special incentive prizes are available for individuals raising \$15 or more. Door prizes and free refreshments are available. Sponsorships are available for companies and civic organizations willing to donate \$125 or more.

Bowl for Kids' Sake is the single largest fundraising event in support of the important youth mentoring work of Big Brothers/Big Sisters, including youth from the Back Mountain. All the money raised supports programming in the local area, matching youth from single parent homes with adult and student mentors.

For more information or to register, contact Big Brothers/Big Sisters at 824-8756 or visit the web site at www.bbbswb.org.



Donation honors emergency workers

The Emergency Department at Wilkes-Barre General Hospital recently received a framed print donated on behalf of the Back Mountain Harvest Assembly and Albert W. Ashton Home Improvements. The print depicts an emergency medical technician (EMT) and was given to honor the valuable work performed by emergency staff throughout the region. The Emergency Department at Wilkes-Barre General Hospital handles over 50,000 emergency visits every year, averaging over 135 visits per day. Shown are members of the Ashton family, Shavertown, at Wilkes-Barre General Hospital. From left: Seanna Ashton, Lori Ashton; Albert W. Ashton; Diane Kane, Clinical Director, Emergency Services; and Aleah Ashton.

Homeowners have second chance for property tax relief

Residential property owners face a March 1, 2005 deadline for mailing their application to receive property tax relief through the Homeowner Tax Relief Act.

The Homeowner Tax Relief Act was passed last fall by the General Assembly, empowering residential property owners to vote on whether to reduce property taxes by raising local income taxes. Taxpayers also have the power to vote on tax hikes that go beyond the rate of inflation.

The initial "Application for Homestead and Farmstead Exclusions" forms were mailed

to homeowners from their local school district in October. A second mailing was sent in December to all homeowners who had not yet responded. Homeowners that lost this from, accidentally discarded it, or never received it, can obtain a copy by calling their County Assessor and requesting an application.

Applications for homestead or farmstead exclusion can also be obtained online at: http://www.inventpa.com/docs/Document/application/pdf/85e1d2dd-91b8-4fc0-936f-5870b0c5ce79/homestead_application_-_revised.pdf

"It is important for homeowners to get these forms returned before the deadline," said State Senator Charles Lemmond. "Since the October mailing, only one-third of all applications have been returned."

Individuals looking to illegally profit from the tax relief will be subject to penalties and fines. Applications may be selected or randomly chosen by the assessor to be reviewed. Individuals filing applications containing false information, or individuals failing to notify the assessor of a change in use which no longer qualifies the

property as a homestead or farmstead will be required to pay the taxes which would have been due plus interest and pay a penalty equal to 10 percent of the unpaid taxes. If convicted for filing a false application, the individual will be guilty of a third degree misdemeanor and be sentenced to pay a fine not exceeding \$2500.

Answers to frequently asked questions regarding the Homeowner Tax Relief Act are available online at: http://www.pde.state.pa.us/pr/optax/lib/proptax/FAQ_Act72_9-21-04.pdf



Habitat volunteers honored

In 2004, a group of Wyoming County volunteers, working through Habitat for Humanity, built a house for a low-income family. The home, located on Schoolhouse Hill Road in Mehoopany, was the fifth to be built by Habitat in the county. Two of the volunteers, Nick Perez, Jr. and Peter Nurse, were recently recognized for their contributions to the 2004 construction effort. Nurse, left, a Procter and Gamble engineer from Springville, received Habitat's Lifetime Achievement award. Perez, right, production manager of Perez Construction in Tunkhannock, was awarded the 2004 Habitat for Humanity Volunteer of the Year award. Endless Mountains Habitat for Humanity builds and renovates homes for low-income families in need in Wyoming County. For more information, call 836-3067.

Cong. Sherwood representative at Dallas

A field representative for U.S. Rep. Don Sherwood will be available to meet with residents Tuesday, Feb. 15 from 11 a.m. to noon at the Dallas Township Municipal Building on Route 309. Citizens or groups who need assistance or have questions about federal government matters are invited to attend.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, call Sherwood's office at 1-888-366-7210.

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Help for taxpayers in Kingston Township

Taxpayer assistance will be provided for all Kingston Township residents for the filing of 2004 local tax returns. A representative from J.P. Harris will be available at the township municipal building, 180 East Center St., Shavertown, from 9 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. on Feb. 16 and March 23.

In addition, state tax return filing assistance will be provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue at the

Wilkes-Barre Office for the Aging, located at 5 East Market St., Wilkes-Barre. A state representative will be available from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. on the dates of February 16, 17, 18, 23, 24, 25; March 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 23, 24, 25, 30, 31; and April 1, 6, 7, 8 (Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays).

Residents with questions may call the township administrative office at 696-3809.

Visiting committee meets Feb. 22

The Dallas Community Visiting and Harvest Festival Committee will meet on Tuesday Feb. 22, at 7 p.m. in the Dallas Borough Council Chambers, 25 Main St., Dallas. The agenda will include an update on recent developments in the region for the task force committees and the reorganization of the Dallas Harvest Festival Committee for the purpose of planning the 2005 festival, to be held on September 18.

New volunteers and anyone interested in learning about these programs are welcome. Questions may be directed to the Dallas Borough administrative office by phoning 675-1389.

Historical society seeks school yearbooks

The Luzerne County Historical Society is seeking yearbooks from schools in Luzerne County. Although the society has several yearbooks from various junior high schools, high schools and colleges, there are many gaps. The society would welcome donations of yearbooks from any year. They can be sent or dropped off at: Luzerne County Historical Society, 49 S. Franklin St., Wilkes-Barre PA 18701. To contact the society, call 823-6244.

Memorial and honor books given to library

The following memorial books have recently been donated to the Back Mountain Memorial Library:

In memory of Gordon Aten, "I Already Know I Love You" by Billy Crystal, presented by Jean Tanski; in memory of Gordon Aten, "Switch on the Night" by Ray Bradbury, presented by Jean Tanski; in memory of Gordon Aten, "Nick Plays Baseball" by Rachel Isadora, presented by Jean Tanski; in memory of Helen Derench, "Listen and Read Charles Dickens: A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens (book/cassette), presented by Joseph Derench; in memory of Jack Cavanaugh, "Secrets of the Sphinx" by James Cross, presented by Terry Cavanaugh; in memory of Jack Cavanaugh, "The Hidden Folk" by Lise Lunge-Larsen, presented by Terry Cavanaugh; in memory of Frank B. Burnside, Sr., "Blink: the power of thinking without thinking" by Malcolm Gladwell, presented by Kerry and Joann Freeman; in memory of Nancy S. Kozemchak, "Bambi: a life in the woods" by Felix Salten, presented by Nancy S. Kozemchak Children's Book Fund; in memory of Mrs. Anna Bauman, "What is Goodbye?" by Nikki Grimes, presented by Matt Dubovick Pepsi Bottling Group; in memory of Betty Gregson, "Bethlehem Road Murder" by Batya Gur, presented by C. Paul Mailloux; in memory of Betty Gregson, "Audubon" by Richard Rhodes, presented by Edythe and Curtis Montz; in memory of Betty Gregson, "Red House" by Sarah Messer, presented by Marilyn Rudolph; in memory of Betty Gregson, "A Thousand Days in

Tuscany" by Marlena De Blasi, presented by Pattie and Stan Davies; in memory of Betty Gregson, "The Ancestor's Tale" by Richard Dawkins, presented by Wallace F. Stettler; in memory of Frederick Johnson, "The Future of Ice" by Gretel Ehrlich, presented by Class of 1942 Kingston Township High School; in memory of Jack Rader, "The United States of Europe" by T.R. Reid, presented by Rich and Drena Gorgone; in memory of Bruce Dodson, "Flying the Alaska Wild" by Mort D. Mason, presented by Stephen and Estella Killian and Family; in memory of Joseph Borton, "Wedding of the Waters" by Peter L. Berenstein, presented by Ian Adams, C.K. Parker; in memory of Lawrence Klais, "Ohio: a bicentennial portrait" by Ian Adams, presented by Kerestes, Youells and Yurchak; in memory of John Samanas, "Treestand Hunting Strategies" by Gary Clancy, presented by Alfred and Patricia Fondo.

HONOR BOOKS

In Honor of Mrs. Kerestes and Mrs. DeGraba, "Polar Bear Night" by Lauren Thompson, presented by Matthew Dillon; In Honor of Brook Kryston, "The Cincinnati Arch" by John Tallmadge, presented by John and Jill Kryston; In Honor of The Library Staff, "Grand Canyon Wild" by John Annerino, presented by Jack and Alice Sallada; In Honor of The Ladies English Tea Group, "Ten Poems to Last a Lifetime" by Roger Housden, presented by Maryann Hopkins; In Honor of The Ladies English Tea Group, "Imagined London" by Anna Quindlen, presented by Maryann Hopkins.



Madame Alexander dolls at the library

Lori Orlando, a resident of Harveys Lake, has put on display in the Back Mountain Memorial Library some of her collection of Madame Alexander dolls which she just inherited from her grandmother. Many people are familiar with this dollmaker's creations, which date from the 1930s. The dolls are dressed in authentic period costumes and are highly collectible. Because Lori has over 120 dolls, she plans to change the exhibit frequently during the month of February.

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