

BACK MOUNTAIN RESIDENTS COMPLETE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM



Nine Back Mountain residents were among a group that participated in this year's Masters Program of Leadership Wilkes-Barre. Leadership Wilkes-Barre is a community organization which fosters civic engagement by providing lectures and local tours about our area for learners of all ages. The six-week program ended with a luncheon and graduation ceremony at the Westmoreland Club. The program is under the direction of Back Mountain resident Pam Rothenberger. Participating in the program, from left, first row are Sharron Davis, Dallas; Sheila McFadden, Dallas; Janet Dent, Dallas; JoAnn Campbell, Wilkes-Barre; Ruth Federici, Dallas. Second row: Pat Parks, Wilkes-Barre; Georgia Besecker, Dallas; Carl Goodwin, Trucksville; Lee Bantell, Pittston; Bob Kline, Shavertown; Florence Sherwood, Shavertown; Bob James, Pringle; Edith Pillarella, Dallas; Rothenberger, Dallas; and Louise Martin, Wilkes-Barre.

Singer-songwriter returns to area in concert

Singer-songwriter Abby Ahmad, a Dallas native, will return to the area for a live performance at 8:30 p.m. Wednesday at Murray's Inn in Wilkes-Barre. The 23-year-old Dallas High School graduate will be celebrating the anticipated release of her first CD, "The Rearview," at the show.

The daughter of Mac and Lynn Ahmad began writing songs at the age of 10 and was performing

by 15. She is a 2004 graduate of the University of Pittsburgh, where she earned a bachelor's degree in theater. While in college, Ahmad performed as an actress, sound designer, and composer in 15 shows with the Pittsburgh Repertory Theatre.

As a singer and guitarist, Ahmad has performed locally at the former Java Gallery and Café Metropolis. She worked with Forty

Fort musician Matt Zeigler (known professionally as Matt Zigs) to compile and produce a CD with 12 original songs. Zeigler will be the opening act at the Dec. 28 show.

Ahmad resides in New York City. She is scheduled to perform in February at the prestigious "The Knitting Factory" in New York City.

CIVIC BRIEFS

Public invited to share nature

The Greater Wyoming Valley Audubon Society is inviting members of the community to share an interesting item regarding nature during its "Members' Night" at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 16 at the Wild Birds Unlimited store in the Dallas Shopping Center on Route 309.

The items may include - but are not limited to - films, poetry, passages from a book, photos, short videos and slides. The public is encouraged to attend. The Greater Wyoming Valley Audubon Society meets the third Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. except during the summer months.

Contra dance set for Jan. 7

A New England Contra dance sponsored by the Chicory House and the Folklore Society will feature the music of "The Warrington Family Band" and caller Bob Nicholson at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 7 at the Fellowship Free Evangelical Church, 45 Hildebrandt Road in Dallas.

No partner or previous experience is necessary. Admission to the dance is \$7 for adults and \$18 for families. Contra dancing features dancing in sets of approximately a dozen couples. You interact with a partner and everyone else in the set as you dance with easy walking steps to rather energetic music. Dancers are requested to carry in sneakers or flat/low heeled shoes with non-marking soles and heels. High heels cannot be used on the dance floor.

The Chicory house is an all-volunteer non-profit coffeehouse, sponsoring folk music and dance in the Wyoming Valley. Dancers may bring a snack to share at intermission. For more information, call

3334007 or visit the Web site www.folkloresociety.org.

Alzheimer's group sets monthly meeting

The Alzheimer's Support Group will meet at 11 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 5 at the Meadows Nursing Center in Dallas. The facility is located at 55 W. Center Hill Road. The public is invited.

No bag limit for trash collection

The Dallas Area Municipal Authority will conduct its collection of trash and recyclables on the normal days during the holiday season. There will be no bag limits for trash collection from Monday, Dec. 26 through Friday, Dec. 30. The normal two-bag limit will resume Monday, Jan. 2. For more information, call DAMA at 696-1133.

Civil War weapons focus of meeting

Nathan M. McKenzie will present a program about Civil War weaponry during a meeting of the Wyoming Valley Civil War Round Table at 7 p.m. Jan. 12 in the lower level of the Dallas American Legion on Route 415 in Dallas. The program will include an exhibit and discussion about Civil War muskets, rifled muskets and revolvers. McKenzie is a retired elementary school teacher who lives in Fairmount Springs, near Benton. He also does reenacting and live history demonstrations at local schools and organizations. McKenzie's programs include information about the Revolutionary War, Civil War, World War II, and the Korean War. The public is invited to attend the program.

Audubon Society plans field trip

The Greater Wyoming Valley Audubon Society will hold a bird watching field trip to Kirby Park in Wilkes-Barre at 8 a.m. Jan. 22. The group will meet in the lot of the former King's Department Store and Reilly's Classic

Car Museum near the intersection of Market Street and Dawes Avenue, Kingston. Anyone who attends is encouraged to bring binoculars and proper attire for outdoor weather. For more information, call Bob Wasilewski at 542-5948. The Greater Wyoming Valley Audubon Society includes Luzerne and Wyoming counties.

Legion memberships should be renewed

Membership dues for 2006 at the Daddow-Isaacs Dallas American Legion Post 672 should be paid as soon as possible. Membership cards for 2005 will not be honored after Dec. 31. For more information, call commander John Emil Sr. at 675-4461.

Dock ice insurance may be purchased

For the third consecutive year, the Harveys Lake Protective Association is selling ice insurance policies for docks. The cost is \$20 per front pile, with a \$100 minimum. A complete copy of the policy is available on the association's Web site, www.hlpa.org. Anyone wishing to purchase dock insurance should call Mark Sobeck at 714-5326 or e-mail m.sobek@epix.net. The first payment is due no later than Dec. 31.

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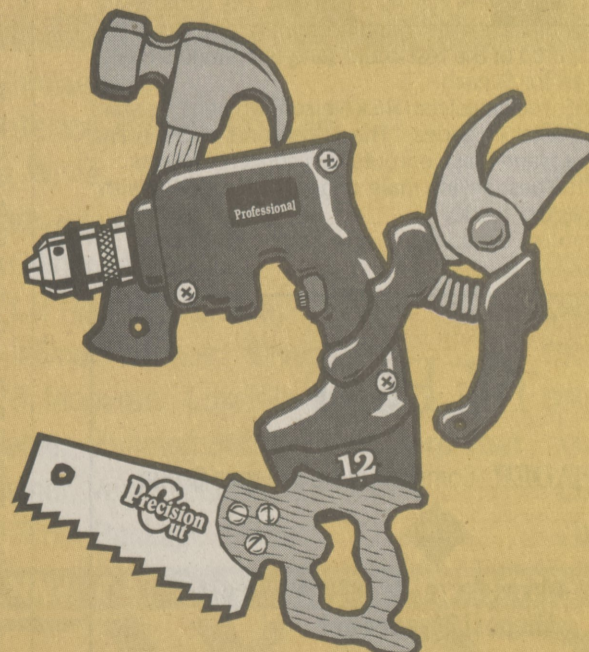
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