

Ruch is nominated for teaching award

Gate of Heaven School fifth grade teacher Dianne Ruch is being recognized for her creativity and success in the classroom as a Disney Teacher Award nominee.



Ruch

Award.

"I am honored to be nominated for this award," she said. "I love my students and being part of their lives reminds me each day why I became a teacher. It means so much to be recognized in such a special way."

In addition to letters of recommendation, Ruch will submit an application that includes several professional reflection essays describing her classroom and approach to teaching, the impact of high stakes testing, how she approaches collaboration in her school and career and an event that shaped her as a teacher.

The winner of the national award, as well as four honorees, will be announced in late spring.

LOCAL STUDENTS READ 'TIME CAPSULE' MESSAGES



Twenty Back Mountain residents who are eighth grade students at Wyoming Seminary Lower School recently took part in a longtime tradition by receiving Christmas ornaments containing "time capsule" wishes they had written during their earlier years at the school. Students collected their ornaments from dean of middle school Patricia Summerhill following the school's winter choral concert. Participating in the event, from left, first row are Corey Muller, Shavertown; Marco Santarelli, Dallas; George Tsoles, Shavertown; and Michael Kapolka, Dallas. Second row: Matt Kurzweil, Shavertown; Emily Smallwood, Dallas; Nick Strzeletz, Dallas; Christopher Bell, Wyoming; Madeleine Hackett, Shavertown; and Michael Flack, Dallas. Third row: Olivia Lumia, Dallas; John Henry, Shavertown; Audrianna Gavin, Shavertown; Jonathan Novak, Dallas; Amanda Reiser, Dallas; Adam Thalenfeld, Dallas; George Cimochowski, Dallas; and Salvatore DiPietro, Shavertown. Zara Zaman of Shavertown and Garrett Konecke of Wyoming also took part in the event.

Students invited to engineering test

High schools from northeastern Pennsylvania, including Dallas and Lake-Lehman, have been invited to participate in the 2006 Tests of Engineering Aptitude, Mathematics and Science competition. The event will be held March 6 at the Penn State/Wilkes-Barre campus in Lehman Township.

TEAMS is an academic program and competition that introduces high school students to the world of engineering. Student teams are in training to get ready for the competition. Teams will spend several hours each week practicing sample test questions, and developing teamwork and problem-solving skills.

Teams will compete at the varsity or junior varsity level in one of nine school-based divisions. Divisions are determined by school size and selectivity of admissions. The top-scoring teams in each division from each state will be eligible for a national ranking, which will be determined by performance on Part II of the two-part test. Regional awards are based upon performance on Part I of the test.

Approximately 14,000 high school students from across the nation will compete in the annual one-day event. The goal is to get students interested in engineering while in high school, and assist them in making informed decisions about their future educational pursuits.

The local competition is sponsored by Penn State/Wilkes-Barre and the Luzerne County Chapter of the Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers. TEAMS is sponsored nationally by JETS, a national nonprofit organization promoting interest in engineering, science, mathematics and technology.

For more information about the event, call John Barnes at 675-9238.

SCHOOL BRIEFS

Local residents receive degrees

Six Back Mountain residents were among the more than 200 Wilkes University students to receive degrees during the university's annual winter commencement.

The Back Mountain residents are listed with their respective hometowns and degrees: Kimberly Fowler, Dallas, bachelor of arts, Criminology; Robert Michaels, Dallas, master of business administration; Cheryl Montross, Dallas, master of science, education; Kristine Pruet, Dallas, master of science, education; Kyrston Strauch, master of science, education and Jennifer Bernick, Shavertown, master of science, Education.

Writing course set for LCCC

Luzerne County Community College is offering a credit-free writing course from 6-8 p.m. each Monday from Feb. 6 through March 13 at the campus. The course "Writing for Publication" is designed for anyone who loves to write, anyone who wants to improve their writing skills, and anyone who wants to have a book published.

The cost of the course is \$60. For more information, or to register, call 740-0495 or visit the Web site www.luzerne.edu.

Horticulture course offered at PSU/W-B

The Penn State Cooperative

Extension is accepting registrations for a horticulture short course, which will be held each Thursday from Feb. 9 through March 9 at the Penn State/Wilkes-Barre campus in Lehman Township.

The lecture/hands-on series will explore plant science, soils, integrated pest management, entomology, woody plant biology, pruning woody plants, pesticides and pesticide safety, lawn care, plant pathology, and herbaceous plants.

The registration fee is \$200 for the series or \$30 per class. Students may register for the entire series or pick and choose classes to attend.

For more information about the course, including the time of the classes, call Donna Grey or Mary Pat Appel at 825-1701.

Language Institute offers knitting class

The Language Institute will hold the class "Knitting in the Andes" - the first of a series of cultural enrichment classes - from 6:30-8:30 p.m. each Monday through Feb. 20 at Wilkes University.

The 10-hour course will introduce students to the countries that make up the western regions of South America, the indigenous people who inhabit the area, and the methods, patterns, garments, and history of knitting in this area.

Students will complete a knitting project by the end of the course, using native patterns and designs. The class is open to knitters of all skill levels. Prior knowledge of Spanish is not required.

For more information, call coordinator Jenny Blanchard at 408-4240.

You may also e-mail her at blanchar@wilkes.edu.

Gardening, tap dance, wines among class topics

College Misericordia is offering non-credit courses that will give students of all ages an opportunity to develop a green thumb for gardening, explore the nuances of tap dancing, and learn the subtle differences of wines.

The adult tap dance class will be held from 8-9 p.m. each Friday from Feb. 10 through March 31 at the Walsh Auditorium. The class is an introduction to the fundamentals of tap dancing with special reference to the technique of great American artists. The class uses a three-prong approach to teaching the rhythmic form of dance. Students will receive a cardio aerobic workout, lessons in technique and terminology.

Elisabeth Harris, certified master instructor from the Joan Harris Center, is the instructor. Cost of the class is \$88.

The Wines of the World class is an introduction to the wine industry and its production throughout the world. The classes will be held from 4-6 p.m. each Sunday from March 5 through April 9. Each class will have a lecture and an overview of the wine producing region and a sampling of three reds and three whites from each region. During the six-week course, students will sample wines from France, California, Italy, Spain, Australia, New Zealand and Chile.

Dick Murphy, wine consultant for Zachys, an international wine retailer and wine auctioneer in New York City, is the class instructor. Cost of the class is \$75, plus a \$20 materials fee for each class. The first class will be held at the Woodlands Inn and Resort, Plains Township. Each subse-

quent class will be held at a different area restaurant.

A Garden of Possibilities course allows students to discover the tools that are needed to build a greener, healthier lawn, plant and maintain colorful flower beds and how to properly care for various plants. Students also will learn about fertilizers and chemicals, soil testing and the lifecycle of root-eating grubs.

The six-week will be held from 6-8 p.m. each Wednesday from April 19 through May 24 in the MacDonald Art Gallery. The instructor is Barbara Anderson and the course costs \$60.

For more information about the non-credit classes being offered at College Misericordia or to register, contact the adult education office at 674-6289.

Geisinger Wyoming Valley brings transplants to Northeastern Pennsylvania!

Geisinger Wyoming Valley in Wilkes-Barre is proud to announce the opening of the first kidney transplant program in Northeastern Pennsylvania. Santosh Potdar, MD, a board-certified specialist, formerly of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, leads the program. Geisinger's internationally recognized transplant program is:

- United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS)-approved.
- Immediately accepting patients for transplant wait list.
- One of few in the nation using a steroid-free immunosuppressive regime that improves outcomes and limits the use of anti-rejection medications.
- Offering living donor transplant program.
- Also providing pre- and post-pancreas transplant consults and services.



Transplant team includes: Santosh Potdar, MD (seated) and nurse coordinators Mary Ellen McCormick, Ruth Latsba and Richard Bunton.

For more information or to list with Geisinger Wyoming Valley's transplant program, please call 570-819-5590.

www.geisinger.org

Geisinger

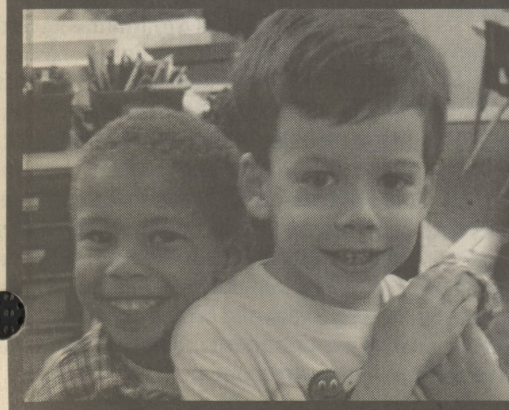



VISITATION DAY

Presidents Day, February 20

Students in pre-kindergarten through grade seven are invited to visit our Lower School for a day. Attend classes and get to know us! Call 718-6610 to arrange for a visit, a tour or an admission screening!

We're waiting for YOU!




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