Joanne Prohaskas

Humphrey Bogart

during the auction.

holds a poster of

Continued from Page 1

"I was really upset after 9-11," promoted to the rank of corporal. to sit around and do nothing. I always thought the Marine Corps was the toughest (branch of service) and I felt that if I was going to join the military, I wanted to do it right."

friends beside him.

Weber had spoken to former Dallas High School wrestling fore they act. Our job is to deter, standout Perry Coolbaugh about joining the Marines with him on provide a physical presence so the buddy plan. But when Cool- the terrorists won't even try to atbaugh joined the Corps in December 2003, he filled the final spot available for the FAST com-

who was a teammate of Coolbaugh's on the Noxen Strikers Guard School, we saw each other his discharge in February 2008.

That was just the beginning. When a spot became available took advantage of it. And a few weeks later, two of the best wrestlers in the Wyoming Valley Confolk on July 19. ference - who attended rival high

schools only a few miles apart -

were roommates.

Mountaineers. "We went to New Hampshire together for the refueling of a nuclear submarine and we (provided border security) in Cuba together. We've had some good times."

Established in 1987, FAST said Weber, who was recently companies are equipped to perform security missions as direct-"I wanted to do something to ed by the Naval Chief of Opermake a difference. I didn't want ations. While they don't spend their time hunting down terrorists, members of the team defend Marine Corps and U.S. Navy assets from terrorists attacks.

"We're the Marine Corps SWAT team," said Weber, refer-And he wanted one of his ring to civilian Special Weapons and Tactic squads.

"We try to get the terrorists bedetect and defend. We want to

A knee injury to Weber forced the two Back Mountain Marines to go their separate ways - at "We saw each other a little dur- least for now. Although he's back ing boot camp, but we didn't have to active duty, Weber's injury – he much time to talk," said Weber, has no cartilage in his left knee has forced him to serve as a combat marksman instructor for elementary wrestling team. "But young Marines in Norfolk when we went to Basic Security where he expects to serve until

Meanwhile, Lance Corporal Coolbaugh has been stationed in Japan for the past six months, for the FAST program, Weber one of approximately 15 countries to which he has been sent. He's expected to return to Nor-

"I'm sure I could get a medical discharge if I want, but I want an honorable discharge," said Web-"We became really good er. "You feel proud when you friends," said Weber, a former wear the uniform. A lot of people District 2 champion wrestler and go though life feeling as though two-time state qualifier. Cool- they didn't accomplish anything, baugh, who graduated from Dal- while other people feel like las in 2003, was a two-time dis-they've made a difference. That's trict champion who recorded the way I feel, like I'm making a more than 100 career wins for the difference.'



FOR THE POST/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

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Another popular item on the auction block was a painting done by Dallas artist Sue Hand. Each year, the owner of Sue Hand's Imagery on Main Street paints a picture during the auction and the painting is put up for bid. This year's painting was sold to Dennis and Peggy Brislin for \$3,100.

Sweeney stepped up as chairperson of the auction this year after Paul Nicholson was unable to fulfill his duties because of an unfortunate car accident in May.

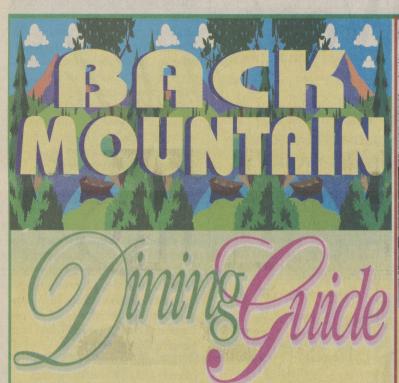
"Paul is on the mend," said Sweeney a Kingston Township resident. "I went to visit him in the hospital and he gave me the thumbs up because he can't talk. We are hoping he is on the mend for next year's event."

Sweeney said the event couldn't have been so successful without the help of the entire Back Mountain and other communities.

"Events like this keep the town together and it's nice to be a part of it," she said. "It gives you a truly special



Auctioneer Steve Traver holds everyone's attention on the auction block.



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