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AUDIO BOOKS

A way to enjoy a good read

By DAVE KONOPKI
Dallas Post Editor

DALLAS - Imagine yourself enjoying a Tom Clancy thriller while vacuuming your home. Or an Agatha Christie who-dun-it while logging a few miles on the treadmill. Or perhaps a John Grisham classic while you're taking the family dog for a stroll. You don't have to imagine any more.

The Back Mountain Memorial Library recently began offering eAudiobooks accounts to its patrons. The books are downloaded on an MP3 player and patrons may "borrow" up to 10 titles at a time. The books remain on the MP3 player for approximately two weeks and may also be renewed once. Another great feature? There are no late fees.

"The response has been very good and the interest is still growing," said library director Martha Butler. "People just becoming aware of it. More and more people coming in requesting information about setting up an account. It's a growing venue to be able to listen to a book at your convenience."

Anyone with a library card can take advantage of the service. And you don't have to leave the comfort of your home.

To create an account, library patrons may register at the library on Huntsville Road in Dallas or on the library's Web site at www.backmountainlibrary.org. The downloadable titles are available in the library's card catalog and online.

"You don't have to put a hold on a book and they're there when you want it," Butler said. "An unlimited number of users can access the same book at the same time. You can listen to books while you're walking the dog, working on a treadmill, cooking, or while driving in your car if you have an FM adapter."

There are approximately

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Noxen Choir provides quality music to people of the Back Mountain



Members of the Noxen Choir enjoy a laugh during practice. The group began singing almost 18 months ago.

FOR THE DALLAS POST/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Community chorus right on key

By DAVE KONOPKI
Dallas Post Editor

NOXEN - Their backgrounds might be as diverse as their singing styles. And the name can be little confusing. But that hasn't stopped the members of the Noxen Choir from doing exactly what they set out to accomplish when the group was founded almost 18 months ago.

Provide quality music to the community.

"We just love to sing," said Emily Steltz, who helped organize the group. "We practice every week and we have a good time with it. We started with just a few people and it started to grow. I think the most important thing is that we all like singing and we enjoy being with each other. We're not doing it for the recognition."

The choir is comprised of 14 retired Back Mountain residents, ranging from the group's lone male singer to a 90-year-old woman.

"Being the only man doesn't bother me," said 82-year-old Dorrance Hubbel, who joined the choir about five

weeks ago. "I used to be clown with mostly lady clowns, so I'm used to working with the ladies."

The Noxen resident says his reasons for joining the group were simple.

"I just like to sing and I like to entertain," said the tenor. "I wanted to keep working on my voice and I guess Miss Steltz thought my voice was good enough for me to join."

The name might lead some to believe the group sings nothing but church music. But that's not the case, says Steltz.

"We're not a church group," she said. "We have members who belong to different churches and different religions, but we sing a lot of secular music. Last year, we did a show with a lot of 1950s music. It was a lot of fun."

The idea for the group, however, did come following a church-related event. After flood waters created severe damage in the Noxen area, a few churches got together for a hymn sing. After the event, someone asked Steltz about the

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Emily Steltz, foreground, helped organize the Noxen Choir. Among the group's members, from left, first row are Marie Wilson, Jane Race and Nancy Lane. Second row: Irene Transue Isabelle Butler, Mary Hopper, Dorrance Hubbell, Margaret Womer, Laura Malbone, and Audrey Patton.



Audrey Patton and fellow members of the Noxen Choir perform a song during last week's practice.

"I think the most important thing is that we all like singing and we enjoy being with each other. We're not doing it for the recognition."

Emily Steltz
Noxen Choir member



Lake Silkworth resident Samy Brown, second from the bottom, performs during a routine on the steps of the Philadelphia Museum.

Being in Philadelphia on Thanksgiving is a reason to cheer

By DAVE KONOPKI
Dallas Post Editor

Nine area cheerleaders, all but one of whom are students in the Lake-Lehman School District, recently marched in the Thanksgiving Day Parade in Philadelphia. The cheerleaders participated in four days of activities after being chosen by Universal Cheerleading Association.

The local girls chosen to participate in the parade were Samy Brown, Lake Silkworth; Megan Davis, Dallas; Sara Davis, Dallas; Melinda Wright, Sweet Valley; Keegan Truska, Lehman; Rachel Holena, Shavertown; Carly Gromel, Harveys Lake; Kortnie Savage, Lake Silkworth; and Brittany Delancey.

"It was a great experience for the girls," said

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PHOTOS COURTESY ANDY MOLITORIS/PHOTOGRAPHY BY ANDY

Cheerleaders who marched in the Thanksgiving Day Parade in Philadelphia, from left, first row are Rachel Holena, Kortnie Savage and Megan Davis. Second row: Keegan Truska, Carly Gromel, Sara Davis, Brittany Delancey, Melinda Wright and Samy Brown.

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