

PEOPLE BRIEFS

Giunta promoted at PNC Bank

Peter J. Danchak, president of PNC Bank, Northeast Pennsylvania, announced that Sam Giunta was promoted to vice president.

Giunta, CLU, ChFC is an investment advisor in PNC Investments, based out of PNC's offices in Mountain Top, Conyngham, Freeland and Hazleton. He joined PNC in 2000, bringing with him 25 years of experience in the financial services industry.

A graduate of Wilkes University, Giunta recently served as a volunteer executive for the Celebrate Wilkes-Barre Bicentennial Committee.

He and his wife, Renee, live in Dallas and are the parents of a daughter, Bridget.

Ellis graduates from basic training

Army National Guard Pvt. D. Charles Ellis has graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C.

During the nine weeks of training, the soldier studied the Army mission, history, tradition and core values, physical fitness, and received instruction and practice in basic combat skills, military weapons, chemical warfare and bayonet training, drill and ceremony, marching, rifle marksmanship, armed and unarmed combat, map reading, field tactics, military courtesy, military justice system, basic first aid, foot marches, and field training exercises.

He is the son of David W.M. and Cecelia A. Ellis of Cheyenne Court, Toms River, N.J., and brother of Emma Hea-

ley of Manor Drive, Dallas. Ellis is a 2005 graduate of Toms River North High School.

Spath is Service Award Winner

The United States Achievement Academy has announced that Emma Lang Spath, of Shavertown, has been named a United States National Leadership and Service Award Winner.

Spath, a seventh grade student at Wyoming Seminary Lower School, will appear in the United States Achievement Academy's official yearbook which is published nationally.

The Academy selects USAA winners based on the Standards of selection set forth by the Academy. The criteria for selection are a students' academic performance, interest and aptitude, leadership qualities, responsibility, enthusiasm, motivation to learn and improve, citizenship, attitude and cooperatives spirit and dependability.

Spath is the daughter of Gregg and Lois Spath. Her grandmother is Mildred Lang of Kingston.

Foster promoted at Misericordia

Joan S. Foster of Harveys Lake was recently named coordinator of transfer recruitment at College Misericordia. In this



Foster

position, she develops, implements and manages the activities required to successfully recruit and enroll transfer

students at the institution.

Foster has been employed at College Misericordia since 2001 as an adjunct professor, teaching courses in business and accounting. Most recently, she was an admissions representative at Luzerne County Community College in Nanticoke, where she worked closely with prospective students and their parents through the admissions process.

Foster has a bachelor's degree in business administration from College Misericordia and an M.B.A. from Wilkes University. She also holds a certification in management accounting and a master's degree in educational technology from Lehigh University.

She and her husband, John, reside in Harveys Lake. The couple has three sons, Eric, Bloomsburg; Christian, Misoula, Mont.; and John, III, at home.

DeGraba named Miss Teen Star

Gianna DeGraba, daughter of Joseph and Lisa DeGraba, Dallas, was crowned Miss Teen Star at the "Stars on the Rise" dance and talent competition held recently in Cherry Hill, New Jersey.

DeGraba was awarded the title after placing first in the evening gown, sportswear and swimsuit categories.

This is DeGraba's second title. She won her first title at the competition last year in Tannersville, PA.

A ninth grade honor student at Dallas High School, DeGraba prepared for the competition with the help of Donna John.



COURTESY PHOTO

A portrait of the Panagakos family taken in June 2006 shows, from left, Shane, Gus, Judy, and Kallysta Panagakos.

They walk for Mom

The Back Mountain Middle School Youth group is participating under the name of the Panagakos Pacers in the Relay for Life being held at College Misericordia from 5 p.m. June 1 to 5 p.m. June 2. The students are walking in memory of Judy (Legg) Panagakos, who died on January 20, 2007 at the age of 42 from breast cancer.

Judy Panagakos lived in Dallas Township for 10 years with her husband, Gus, and her two children, Shane, age 13 and Kallysta, age 11. She was an advisor for the youth group of which Shane is a member. She was also very active at the Dallas Wycallis Elementary School and played bells and worked the bazaar at the Gate of Heav-

en Church.

Unfortunately, Judy was diagnosed in 2003 with Stage 4 breast cancer which quickly spread to her bones, liver, and then her brain.

The Back Mountain Middle School Youth group is participating in the relay because, in addition to honoring one of their fallen, it is a way for them, as a group, to make a difference that can possibly impact many people with this disease.

Gus Panagakos and two children from the group are going to attempt to walk for the full 24 hours of the relay. The other 12 members of the team will be walking during various time slots within the 2- hour span. Each team member hopes to

raise at least \$100.

Anyone wishing to make a donation to the Panagakos Pacers relay team is asked to make a check payable to the American Cancer Society and mail it to Bernadette Vito, c/o American Cancer Society Wyoming Valley Unit, 190 Welles St., Forty Fort, PA 18704.

Donations can also be made online with a credit card at <http://www.kintera.org/faf/home/default.asp?event=190236>. Select "sponsor participant" and then follow the screen for further information.

Donors are asked to please include the Panagakos Pacers or a participant's name and "Back Mountain" on their check.

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