



CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK PHOTOS/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

ax and library patron Ethan Zawatski, of Dallas, have a playful tug-of-war over this book during a reading program at the Back Mountain Memorial Library. Shown at left is Payton Lepore.

Tux shows he can read

Ryan Lannon used to be embarrassed to be smart. Not anymore.

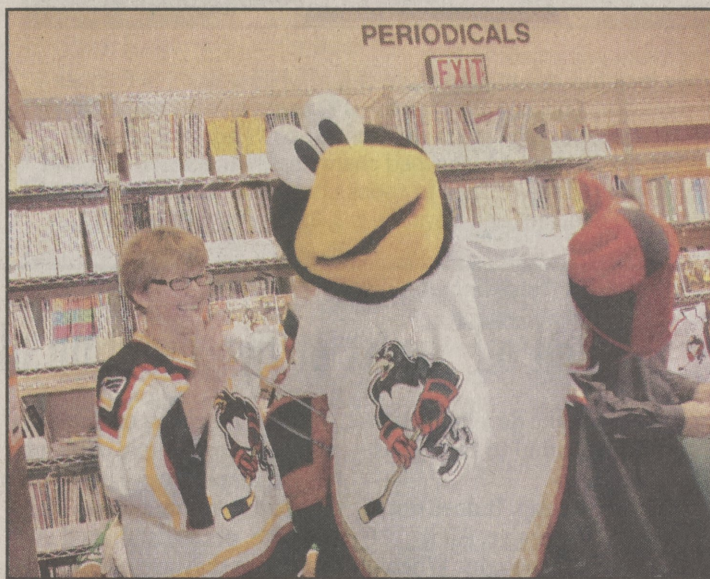
A graduate of Harvard University, and a member of the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins hockey team, Lannon spoke recently at "Rise Up Reading," a program to celebrate Children's Book Week at the Back Mountain Memorial Library that attracted more than 80 people.

In addition to Lannon, Penguins mascot Tux and Scott Stuccio, the new voice of the Penguins, were on hand to help children "rise up to reading."

Lannon and Stuccio took turns reading pages from two books to the children as Tux acted out the movements, gestures and faces. One book was "Brave Potatoes" by Toby Speed and "Sometimes I Like to Curl up in a Ball" by Vicki Churchill. Tux even did a front flip to the amazement of those in attendance.

Lannon, of Grofton, Massachusetts, talked with the children about the importance of reading in their day-to-day lives, the reasons to practice their reading every day and how easy it is to develop a love of reading. He told the children how the players read a lot on the long rides to the various venues for games.

He told the children to be proud of their intelligence and reading ability and encouraged them to read every day to im-



Tux had children's librarian Janet Bauman laughing during a reading program at the Back Mountain Memorial Library.

prove their vocabulary and their knowledge.

He then answered questions about himself and the team, admitting that he started skating when he was 18 months old and never stopped and that, if he wasn't a professional hockey player, he would have become a pediatrician.

Children were allowed to bring one item of memorabilia to be signed by Lannon. All children in attendance also received a paperback book.

Children who participated in the program included Danny and Chloe Dudick, Owen and Zack Hixon, Ethan Zawatski, Ian, Lauren and Ashley Carry;

Sam, Nick and Jude Nocito; Sam Leandri, Trey and Nicole Leo, Payton and Isabelle Lepore, Nick Miscavage, Carolyne Wintersteen, Mark Roginski.

Also, Christopher, Elizabeth, Catherine and Matthew Dillon; Joseph and Olivia Moore, Will Snowden, Matthew and Christopher Ferrara, Benjamin Carpenter, Dallas Woodruff, Alex Stier, Anastasia Baney and Kirsten Zakseski.

Also, Girl Scouts Joelle Serasin, Madison Hurst, Erika Wintersteen, Hannah Vatale, Maia Bulford, Kaitelyn DeAnthony, Emily Howell, Audrey Ariesto, Rayna Roberts, Rachel Nelligan and Samantha Stier.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Back Mountain residents who will perform in the Joan Harris Dancers' production of "Sing Your Praises" next weekend at Coughlin High School are, seated, Denise Nerozzi, Dallas. From left, standing, Katelyn Reinert, Trucksville; Gabby Meyers, Harveys Lake; Kristen Justice, Dallas; and Shana Weinstock, Dallas.

Joan Harris dancers offer 'holiday cheer'

If you are in need of a dose of "holiday cheer," a group of talented performers from the Joan Harris Dancers has just what you're looking for.

These performers will present "Sing Your Praise" on Saturday, Dec. 8, and Sunday, Dec. 9, at the Coughlin High School Auditorium, Wilkes-Barre. The sights and sounds of the holidays will be depicted in dance, as nearly 200 students from the Back Mountain community will appear in the Joan Harris Centre annual winter celebration.

Expect to whistle along to the music selected as the show en-

times you to remember childhoods of old and all the memories they conjure up. Many will be moved by some of the more serious pieces and more will laugh during the always-present comic relief. Singers, actors, skilled dancers, beautiful sets and professionally-designed lighting effects will all come together in a show that offers something for everyone.

Fun and festive best describes this year's production as dancers from all across Northeastern Pennsylvania pool their talents to entertain the community. This performance has become a

tradition for families from around the region and serves as the perfect break from the hustle and bustle of holiday preparations.

Tickets for "Sing Your Praise" are \$9 in advance and \$11 at the door and are available at the Joan Harris Centre located in the Harris Conservatory for the Arts, 545 Charles St., Luzerne.

Curtain times for the Saturday performances are 1 and 5:30 p.m. and on Sunday, the center will stage a matinee at 2 p.m.

For more information, call 287-7977 or visit the website at www.joanharrisdancers.com



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Dallas High School students organizing food supplies they collected and took to the Back Mountain Food Pantry are, from left, Danielle Krawetz, Libby Peeler, Kim Litz, Ally Evans and Erin Delaney.

Students work to feed the hungry

Members of the Dallas Senior High School Student Council delivered and sorted the fruits of their labor recently at the Back Mountain Food Pantry in Trucksville.

The student council held its annual food drive from November 5 through November 14 at the school. During that time, students, faculty and staff donated canned and boxed goods for less fortunate people living in the Back Mountain. One thousand pounds of food and \$20 was collected for the pantry during the



Wondering what it would be like to shop at the food bank are, from left, Libby Peeler, Bailey Van Jura and Erin Delaney.

The homeroom that collected the most food was Homeroom 3, a first-time winning senior home-

room. The homeroom will be treated to a pizza party on a date to be determined for having been the biggest contributor.

Ian Carry, of Hunlock Creek, was one of the first winners in a random drawing at the Back Mountain Memorial Library during a reading program.



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