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New book offers more than 200 area photos

By REBECCA BRIA
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Many residents of the Back Mountain may be surprised to learn their family is mentioned in a new book.

"Pennsylvania's Back Mountain" by Harrison Wick, published by Arcadia Publishing, is a compilation of over 200 photographs of the area with



Wick
IF YOU GO

Book signing with Harrison Wick, author of "Pennsylvania's Back Mountain" Saturday, Jan. 24, 1-3 p.m. Barnes & Noble Booksellers 421 Arena Hub Plaza, Wilkes-Barre Twp.

text featuring historical information and the personal stories of people who live here. The book is due out Jan. 19. "This has a lot more photographs than anything I've ever seen," Wick said. "It has many personal stories and focuses on the entire Back Mountain, not just one municipality of it."

Wick, 31, moved to Dallas from Harford County, Md. in 2004 when he took a job as the archivist at Misericordia University. A 2000 graduate of Washington College in Chestertown, MD, he received an undergraduate degree in history then earned graduate degrees in history and library science from Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana in 2002.

While working at Misericordia, he became a member of the Dallas Rotary Club and the Back Mountain Historical Association and his interest in the Back Mountain grew.

"I just fell in love with the Back Mountain," said Wick, who hopes his book "will bring back fond memories of the area and encourage people to tell their stories about the Back Mountain."

In November 2007, Wick relocated to Indiana, Pa. and accepted the position of special collections librarian at Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

When he decided to write a book about the Back Mountain, he gathered over 200 photos of the region from photographer Edward S. Miller, the Back Mountain Historical Association, the Luzerne County Historical Association, Mi-

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Dallas student working to help cause



CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK/ THE DALLAS POST FILE PHOTO

The team of doctors from Community Cares for Kids who travel to Ecuador each year to perform surgery are, from left, Drs. David Levens, Ray Ortega, Francis Collini and Jamie Morhalm.

'Carnivale' time

By REBECCA BRIA
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Sara Skammer has always been fascinated with plastic surgery. • A daughter of Steve and Ruth Skammer, of Dallas, Skammer lives near Dr. Francis Collini and grew up around the plastic surgeon and his family. She's heard stories of Collini's annual trips to Ecuador to help poor children with cleft palates and other birth defects. Dr. Collini even stitched Skammer's mouth after she tripped on a diving board, sending her teeth through her lip. • So when it was time for Skammer, a Dallas High School sophomore, to start thinking about her senior completion project, it was a no-brainer for her to work with Community Cares for Kids.

"I thought it was a really good cause, plus I might want to go into plastic surgery later," Skammer said. "It's just always interested me. I don't know why."

Skammer is currently soliciting ads for the third annual Community Cares for Kids "Carnivale" to be held at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 24, at The Highlands at Newberry Estates in Dallas.

The ball will feature a Mardi Gras and Vienna flair, dancing, exquisite food and entertainment by Erich Cawalla's Party Band from Allentown.

Founded by Dr. Francis and Susan Collini, Community Cares for Kids is a Back Mountain-based non-profit organization that assists underprivileged children suffering from congenital birth defects. In addition to the organization's annual trip to operate on children in Ecuador, needy children are also treated at the Surgery Facility at the Renaissance Center for Plastic Surgery in Shavertown, as well as at donated facilities by Wyoming Valley Health Care System and



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Sara Skammer, 15, of Dallas, is currently soliciting ads and selling raffle tickets for the Third Annual Community Cares for Kids 'Carnivale' as part of her senior completion project at Dallas High School. 'Carnivale' will be held at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 24, at The Highlands at Newberry Estates in Dallas.

the Geisinger Group.

Skammer is trying to recruit as many businesses as possible to purchase an ad for "Carnivale." She is also garnering donated gift certificates to be given as prizes for a \$10,000 raffle at the event. The raffle, which will be held in conjunction with the event, includes a \$6,000 grand prize of a jewelry ensemble including necklace, bracelet and earrings from

include various medical/spa treatments donated by Age of Innocence Salon Day Spa & Skin Clinic of Shavertown, totaling \$3,100 in value; a massage package (10 massages) valued at \$750 donated by massage therapist Maureen Sprau; gift certificates from Shelby Boutique, Kingston, \$250; Big Red Barn Antiques, Beau-

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IF YOU GO

What: Community Cares for Kids third annual "Carnivale"
When: Saturday, Jan. 24, at 7 p.m.
Where: The Highlands at Newberry Estates, Dallas
Cost: \$135 per person or \$250 per couple
To learn more about Community Cares for Kids (CCK), log on to www.CommunityCares-forKids.com on the Web.

The Dewdrops Collection custom designed for the fundraiser by Cecil Henderson and donated by Valentine's Jewelry of Dallas and Henderson Designs.

DAMA raises '09 rates

Increases will pay for long-range infrastructure plan.

By REBECCA BRIA
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Dallas Area Municipal Authority (DAMA) is raising its residential and commercial customer sewer rates for 2009.

Beginning in January, rates to residential customers will be raised to \$322 for the year. Quarterly rates will be raised by \$10.50 and will now be \$80.50 per quarter.

The rate charged to commercial customers will rise from \$3.51 per 1,000 gallons to \$4.39 per 1,000 gallons.

The last rate increase to DAMA sewer customers occurred in 2006.

DAMA 2009 SEWER RATES

RESIDENTIAL:
Yearly - \$322;
yearly with a 2 percent discount if paid on or before Jan. 31 - \$315.56
Quarterly - \$80.50.
COMMERCIAL:
\$4.39 per 1,000 gallons

DAMA executive director Larry Spaciano says the increase in sewer rates is required to provide financing for an extensive long-range infrastructure improvement plan estimated to cost \$6.8 million.

Improvements include construction of a 2.8 million gallon flow equalization tank to replace existing and decaying 40-year-old concrete tanks, repairs to the sewer collection system and improvements to the authority's main and satellite pumping stations.

According to Spaciano, the new flow equalization tank is needed to hold what can't pump down to the Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority during heavy rain and storms. Also, there has also been an increase in customers. From 2000 to 2008, 537 new residential connections were installed.

"These improvements are necessary to maintain compliance with Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection regulations and to help keep pace with the growth surge that has taken place in the Back Mountain over the last several years," DAMA officials said in a press release.

"...Infrastructure improvements allow DAMA to extend its customer base over a wider area, which, in turn, helps to provide for the stability of future sewer rates. As regulations change and we move forward to meet the demands of continuing growth throughout the Back Mountain, DAMA will do everything possible to keep future rate increases to a minimum without sacrificing our current level of quality service and the ability to keep pace with the growth of our area."

Spaciano says work has already begun on the project. A sewer line was replaced in the area across from the Twin Stacks Complex on Route 415. Upgrades to the authority's 15 satellite pumping stations have been made and three pumps at the main pumping station were also replaced.

DAMA was formed to provide sewer service to Dallas Borough, Dallas Township and Kingston Township. The authority now also serves Harveys Lake, Jackson Township and Lehman Township; however, the added municipalities pay different sewer rates than those in the original three.

Rebecca Bria, a staff writer for The Dallas Post, may be reached at 970-7436.

Adams siblings just keep on running

By REBECCA BRIA
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Bob Mitkus likely had no idea when he recruited Whitney Adams for the Dallas junior high girls cross country and track teams that he was signing up the entire Adams family.

All six Adams' offspring - Whitney, 22; Hillary, 21; Mariel, 18; Griffin, 16; Jess, 14; and Nell, 13 - have run or currently run for the Dallas School District cross country and track teams. They are the children of Keith and Marjorie Adams, of Dallas.

It all started in 1999 when Whitney was in the eighth grade at Dallas Middle School and a student in Mitkus' shop class. Mitkus was the coach of the girls cross country team and in desperate need for more girls to join.

Whitney, who only had experience in soccer and ballet, agreed and was one of only four members of the girls cross country and track teams that year. Just three years later in 2002, the girls cross country team was district champion and, in 2003, won the state championship.

Hillary left other sports in

the 10th grade to join her older sister in running. Now, she is a junior at University of North Florida where she was the top cross country runner this year.

"I was a big field hockey and soccer player," Hillary said. "The only reason I came out is because Whitney bugged me."

In 2004, Whitney placed first in the 800-meter race in track and Hillary came in second in the same race. Marjorie was not only excited as the girls' mother but because she had been their coach, as well.

Marjorie took over for Mit-



CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Members of the Adams family are, from left, first row, Nell, Hillary, Mariel and Whitney. Second row, Marjorie, Jess and Griffin.

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