

BELLA PRESENTS PROGRAM ON COAL MINING

Eric Bella, a local historian and a senior at Lake-Lehman High School, has been studying local coal mining history, including the Avondale Mine Disaster, for several years. Bella presented a program, complete with coal mining gear and artifacts, titled, "Avondale: Past, Present, Future" during the Greater Wyoming Valley Audubon Society's January meeting held Jan. 19 at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Dallas. He also presented the program in the summer of 2008 at the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Conference in State College.



Ryan Williams becomes Eagle Scout

Ryan Williams, 18, son of Craig and Karen Williams of Kingston Township, has earned the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest award in Boy Scouting.

For his leadership service project, Williams planned and completed two stone walls at the entrance to Frances Slocum State Park to provide better security for the park's entrance.

Williams is a member of Boy Scout Troop 155, sponsored by the Trucksville Unit-

ed Methodist Church, of which he is also a member. He earned 36 merit badges in his Boy Scouting career and held leadership positions such as Bugler, Den Chief and Patrol Leader.

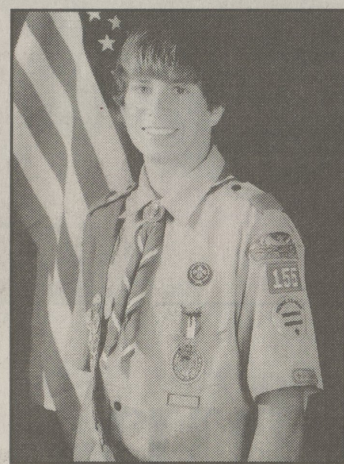
Williams earned the U.S. Heritage Award, B.S.A. World Conservation Award, Gettysburg and Valley Forge Trail Awards and B.S.A. Kayaking and Scuba Awards.

He has attended many troop camping trips such as to the Annapolis Naval Academy,

Gettysburg and Valley Forge, West Point Military Academy and the 200 National Scout Jamboree in Virginia.

A senior at Dallas High School, Williams plans to attend college in the fall to major in engineering. He is employed at the Irem Temple Country Club and plans to continue in a leadership role with his Boy Scout troop.

Williams celebrated his Eagle Court of Honor on September 7 at the Irem Temple Country Club.



OBITUARIES

ANKENBRAND - Joseph J., 65, of Kingston Township, died Monday, Feb. 2, 2009 in Hahnemann University Hospital, Philadelphia.

Born in Pittston on Feb. 5, 1943, he was a graduate of Hughestown High School, Class of 1960 and was a U.S. Navy veteran serving during the Cuban Crisis.

Prior to retirement, he was employed as a union pipe fitter. He was a third-degree member of the Knights of Columbus, JFK Council, Pittston and a member of St. Mary's Assumption Church, Pittston.

Surviving are his mother, Elizabeth Price Ankenbrand, Hughestown; his wife of 43 years, Helen; son, Joseph, Baltimore, Md.; daughters, Lori Bednar, Kingston Township; and Andrea Ankenbrand, Media; two grandchildren; brother, Francis Ankenbrand, Duryea; an aunt, nieces, nephews and cousins.

Memorial donations to Hahnemann University Hospital, Heart Failure Unit, 21st Floor, Broad and Vine Streets, Philadelphia, PA 19102.

BAKER - Belva Finch Stokes, 87, of Evans Falls, died Sunday, Feb. 8, 2009 at the Meadows Nursing Home in Dallas.

Born in Walden, N.Y. on April 13, 1921, she attended Walden High School. She was a member of the Bowman's Creek Free Methodist Church, the Women's Missionary Society, was a Cradle Roll superintendent and served as a steward of the church.

Surviving are her daughters, Joyce Stokes Crevier, Evans Falls; Nancy Stokes, Dallas; sons, David, Shavertown; Rev. Laurence, Lapeer, Mich.; sister, Madeline O'Donnell, Waretown, N.J.; brother,

Paul F. Finch, of Grass Valley, Calif.; five grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; several nieces, nephews and cousins.

Memorial donations to Bowman's Creek Free Methodist Church.

BOMBERGER - Paul F., 83, of Dallas, died Friday, Feb. 6, 2009 at Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center, Plains Township.

Born April 4, 1925 in Schaeferstown, he was a graduate of the Atlantic City, N.J. schools and was a Navy veteran of World War II where he served in Guam as an aviation machinist.

He was employed by the Georgia Pacific Company for many years, first in the Philadelphia area and in 1960 was transferred to the Scranton region. He was a member of Gate of Heaven Church, Dallas, and the American Legion, Daddow Isaacs Post 672, Dallas.

Surviving are his wife of 52 years, the former Josie Murgia; daughters, Kathryn Bennie, Harrisburg; and Joanne Halowich, Plains Township; seven grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren.

SWITZER - Parke, 90, formerly of Village Road, Franklin Township, died Wednesday, Feb. 4, 2009 in the Meadows Nursing Center, Dallas.

Born in Lockville, he was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force World War II. He was a carpenter who was employed by various contractors in the area and a member of the Dymond Hollow United Methodist Church.

Surviving are his daughter, Shirley Pearn, Franklin Township; three grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; two step-grandchildren; nieces and nephews.

Memorial donations to the Dymond Hollow United Methodist Church, c/o Centermoreland Charge, 1244 SR 292 Tunkhannock, PA, 18657.

Nominations sought for Police Officer of the Year

Wyoming Valley Lodge 36, Fraternal Order of Police, is accepting nominations for its fourth annual Police Officer of the Year Award. The award will be presented at the lodge's Police Officers' Ball at 6 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 28, at the Knights of Columbus Hall, Luzerne.

Lodge 36 annually recognizes a member officer who best represents through ac-

tions and/or conduct what every officer strives for in service to the community. A panel of active and retired members of Lodge 36 will select the winner.

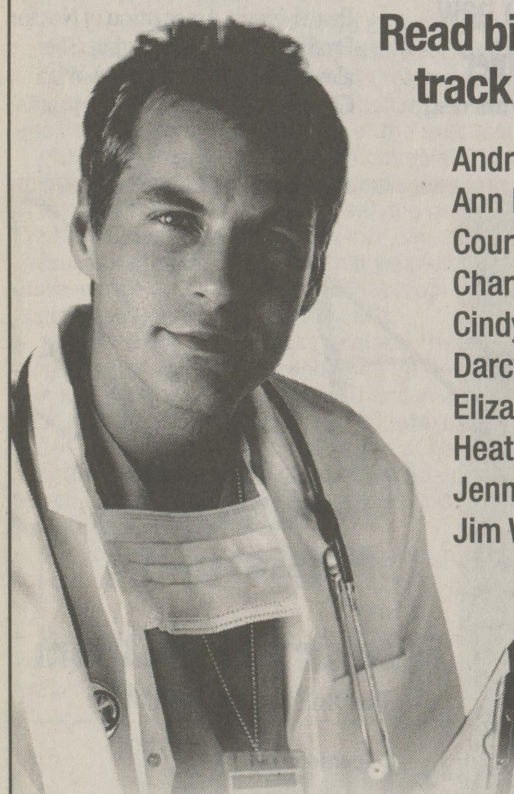
Selection criteria includes: Significant achievements that go above and beyond the call of duty; outstanding acts of courage, heroism, compassion or kindness; how well the offi-

cer represents his/her agency and profession; community service the officer performs on his/her own time; professional achievements. Nominations must be made by lodge members and only votes of active members of Lodge 36 will be considered.

The nomination deadline has been extended to February 23. Nomination forms have been sent to all

police departments in Wyoming Valley. Community members who wish to recommend a police officer for the award should contact a member of their local department. For more information, contact Pat Rushton at 762-3466.

Meet The Physician's Weight Loss Challenge Participants



Read biographies, weekly blogs and track our participants' progress.

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- Courtney O'Meara
- Charles Cardimona
- Cindy Higgins
- Darcy Brodmerkel
- Elizabeth Adamski
- Heather Hunsinger
- Jennifer Sgroi
- Jim Welby
- John Jorda
- Karen Wilt
- Karol Morton
- Michael Bernatovich
- Suzanne Bernatovich
- Nancy Messersmith
- Pam Cella
- Renee Yeager
- Tina May

Learn more at timesleader.com



Wilkes-Barre 970-7977 Dallas 675-4599

All applicants will be reviewed and a panel of participants will be chosen. The chosen participants of the Physicians Weight Loss Challenge must partake in the entire 16-week Weight Loss Program and purchase the required protein supplements. All program and set-up fees are waived for participants of the Physician Weight Loss Challenge. For more information about the Physicians Weight Loss Challenge, please go to timesleader.com

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