

PEOPLE BRIEFS

Levandoski receives National Merit Scholarship

Katherine Levandoski of Dallas, a senior at Wyoming Seminary College Preparatory School, has been named a winner of a 2009 National Merit Scholarship.

The daughter of Drs. Gerald and Diane Levandoski, she is one of about 8,200 high school seniors from throughout the United States who have received National Merit Scholarships worth nearly \$36 million.

Khoudary wins spelling bee

Maria Khoudary, a sixth grade student at Gate of Heaven School, took first place in the fourth through sixth grade Spelling Bee. Maria then represented Gate of Heaven School at the regional competition, placing eighth in the Diocesan Spelling Bee, sponsored by the Diocese of Scranton and Houghton Mifflin Harcourt School Publishers.

Caravaggio takes part in chess club

Michael Caravaggio, a third-grade student at Gate of Heaven School, participated in the Holy Redeemer School System's "Pete's Pawns Chess Club" held at St. Peter & Paul School, Plains.

The Pete's Pawns Chess Club is under the direction of Mr. Frank Procopio, a U.S. Chess Federation certified instructor with over 20 years teaching experience. Michael's father, Tony Caravaggio, taught him how to play chess last summer and he has fallen in love with the game.

Caravaggio placed eighth in the semi-finals multi-grade chess competition.

MU students inducted into honor society

Three Back Mountain residents were among 14 Misericordia University graduates inducted into the Alpha Sigma Lambda National Honor Society during a brunch and induction ceremony at the Banks Student Life Center. Alpha Sigma Lambda is the honor society for continuing education students. Its aim is to recognize the special achievements of adults who accomplish academic excellence while facing competing interests of home and work.

Honored local students include Cheri Balmer of Dallas, psychology; Krista L. Dymond of Tunkhannock, elementary education; and Madelyn Roote of Trucksville, business administration.

Reiser competes for scholarship

Amanda Reiser, of Shavertown, will compete for one of three scholarships to attend Sem's summer Performing Arts Institute at 7 p.m. on Friday, June 5, at the Buckingham Performing Arts Center in Kingston.

Reiser was among more than 40 young artists who auditioned for an opportunity to perform in the Musical Theater Scholarship Gala Benefit on June 5.

The performance is open to the public. Tickets are available by calling 270-2177.

Sem students compete in programming contest

Nine Wyoming Seminary Upper School students recently competed in the annual Bloomsburg University High School Programming Contest held at the university campus.

The students were required to solve a series of computer programming problems and were judged on accuracy and speed.

Among Seminary students competing were senior Joseph Patrick Brady, Sean Dickinson and Alex Wise, all of Shavertown.

Roberts receives Act 101 Award

Misericordia University recently presented Pamela Roberts of Shavertown, an Act 101 Award during the institutions annual Honors Awards Banquet at the

Banks Student Life Center.

Roberts received her Bachelor of Science degree in social work at Misericordia's 83rd annual Commencement ceremony.

Higgins receives award from Misericordia

Deborah Higgins, of Chase, was presented the Outstanding Adult Learner Award during Misericordia University's 83rd annual commencement ceremony.

The award is given annually to a nontraditional student for outstanding academic achievement and involvement in both university and community activities.

Higgins graduated cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts degree in communications May 16.

Balmer receives award

Cheri Balmer of Dallas, Pa., graduated summa cum laude from Misericordia University on May 16 with a bachelor's degree in psychology.

She received the Psychology Student Achievement Award for outstanding academic performance.

Sem students participate in music festivals

Wyoming Seminary Upper School students recently were selected to perform in district, regional and state chorus, band and orchestra festivals.

Freshman Margaret Rupp, of Dallas, was named to the District Jazz Band. James Curtis, of Dallas, was named to District Orchestra, District Band and Regional Orchestra. Hannah Frantz, of Dallas, was named to District Band.

Students named to District Chorus were senior Sean Dickinson, of Shavertown; junior Amber Gollhardt, of Dallas; and sophomore Jacob Baker, of Shavertown.

Wallace volunteers with Junior League

Wyoming Seminary sophomore Katrina Wallace, of Dallas, a member of the Upper School Community Service Group, recently assisted the Junior League of Wilkes-Barre during its fifth annual Wine and Dine event, held at the Luzerne County Courthouse.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Preparing their annual display for summer reading at the Back Mountain Memorial Library are Cindy Lohman, left, of Sweet Valley, and Victoria Grzyboski, of Hunlock Creek. The theme for 2009 is "Be Creative @ Your Library."

# Teens and tweens are invited to 'express themselves' at library

Tweens and teens can "Express Themselves" this summer through five different reading programs at the Back Mountain Memorial Library.

The 11th annual "Donuts & Discussion" reading group will once again be held in the back of the Children's Room. Tweens, ages 10, 11 and 12 are welcome to join one or all of the discussion group sessions.

Participants will discuss characters, plot, themes and likes and dislikes of four junior fiction books while enjoying donuts and refreshments.

The first book to be read and discussed will be "The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane" by Kate DiCamillo. The first session will be held at 6 p.m. on Monday, June 29. Other Monday dates and books include "Forty Acres and Maybe a Mule" by Harriette Robinet on July 13, "Rules by Cynthia Lord" on July 27 and "Stargirl" by Jerry Spinelli on August 10. Sessions are 6 to 7 p.m.

All tweens are welcome to attend one or all of the sessions. Participants are asked to provide their own books for the program.

The Young Adult Book Discussion Group will be led by Kristen Andrews and is open to teens 13 to 18 years of age. This group will also meet at 6 p.m. on Monday evenings in the Young Adult section of the Reading Room.

Teens should be prepared to discuss these books: "A Solitary Blue" by Cynthia Voigt on June 29, "An Abundance of Kathelines" by John Green on July 13, "Inkdeath" by Cornelia Funke on July 27 and "The Last Thing I Remember" by Andrew Klavan on August 10.

Teens may attend one or all of the sessions. Snacks will be provided but participants are asked to provide their own books.

"Relax & Read" is a reading and reviewing program for those

young adults who prefer to write rather than to discuss. They will be asked to write a short review of the book and display it in the library for other teens to read or they may use the new on-line summer reading program that is accessible at backmountainlibrary.org and post their reviews online. This program is open to teens 12 to 18 years of age.

And for those tweens and teens who would still like to participate in a regular summer reading program, "Express Yourself @ Your Library" reading logs will be available for them to keep track of the hours and the books that they read over the summer. Or, they may use the new on-line summer reading program at backmountainlibrary.org.

Teens may also take part in a "book swap" during the summer.

Young adults are encouraged to call the library for more information at 675-1182.

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