

CIVIC BRIEFS

Bridge group needs players

The Shriner's Hospital for Children Marathon Bridge Group is in need of substitute players. Games of all ages and mixed genders are played on the third Friday of each month from October through June at Irem Country Club in Dallas.

For more information, contact Ellie at 675-8346.

Food pantry lists drop-off sites

The Board of Directors of the Back Mountain Food Pantry reminds everyone that there are two official collection sites in the Back Mountain where donated non-perishable food can be dropped off during regular business hours: Hilbert's The Tractor Store on Route 415 in Dallas and Cook's Pharmacy on Route 309 in Shavertown.

Monetary donations are also needed at this time of year to help provide turkeys for the more than 185 client families on record at the pantry.

Donations may be sent to The Back Mountain Food Pantry, 40 Knob Hill Rd., Trucksville, PA 18708.

'White Christmas' comes to Music Box

The Music Box Repertory Company presents "Irving Berlin's White Christmas" at 3 p.m. today, Dec. 18 at the Music Box Dinner Playhouse, 196 Hughes St., Swoyersville.

For more information, call 283-2195.

Legion plans holiday party

Daddow-Isaacs Dallas American Legion Post 672 will hold its annual Children's Christmas Party today, Dec. 18 at the Post home.

Santa will arrive, courtesy of the Dallas Fire and Ambulance Assn., at 1 p.m. A clown will also be in attendance to make balloon figures. Refreshments will be served and gifts distributed to children up to age 8.

John Emil Sr. is chairman and Joe Kelley is co-chairman of this event. Contact Clarence J. Michael for further information at 675-0488.

Fire company holds breakfast buffet

The Noxen Volunteer Fire Co. will hold a breakfast buffet from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. today, Dec. 18 at the fire hall, Stull Road.

Cost is \$7.50 for adults and \$4 for children under 12 years of age.

Vet center at Boback's office

The mobile vet center will be stationed at Rep. Karen Boback's office, 608 Hunter Hwy., Tunkhannock from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 19.

Some of the services provided through the center include individual and group counseling, marital and family counseling, bereavement counseling, medical referrals, assistance in applying for VA benefits, employment counseling, guidance and referrals, alcohol and drug assessments, information and referrals to community resources.

Holiday House Contest continues

The Kingston Township Recreation Commission will host its annual Holiday House Contest.

Residents are welcome to nominate their own house or any home within the township by calling the Kingston Township Administration at 696-3809.

Prizes will be gift cards to Lowe's Home Improvement as follows: \$60, first place; \$55, second place; \$45, third place; and \$40, fourth place.

Voting will be conducted today, Dec. 18. Contestants should have their decorations lit that night.

Boback hosts vets claims consultant

Rep. Karen Boback (R-Columbia/Luzerne/Wyoming) will host a claims consultant from the Wilkes-Barre Veterans of Foreign Wars from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 20 in her Sweet Valley office, 5929 Main Rd.

Anyone with questions about veterans' services can contact either of Boback's full-time district offices in Sweet Valley at 477-3752 or in Tunkhannock at 836-4777.



Melody, center, and David Buck, right, are honored as Volunteers of the Year Award winners by Paul Lumia, left, executive director of the North Branch Land Trust.



Paul Lumia, left, executive director of the North Branch Land Trust, presents a Volunteer of the Year Award to Zack Kaufer.

NBLT cites volunteers Bucks, Kaufer

North Branch Land Trust recently held its 15th annual holiday gathering at the Appletree Terrace in Dallas.

Executive Director Paul Lumia gave an overview of the Land Trust's conservation work over the past year, along with an update on projects in process. The highlight of the evening was the awarding of NBLT's Volunteer of the Year awards. This year's recipients were Zack Kaufer and Melody and David Buck.

Kaufer holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Environmental Studies from King's College and is pursuing his Master's Degree in Water Resource Management from Deakin University, Geelong, Australia. He is currently employed

by GAI Consultants as an environmental specialist and is an avid scuba diver.

He received The Land Conservation Volunteer of the Year Award for his volunteer assistance in monitoring many properties conserved by North Branch Land Trust.

Melody and David Buck started their environmental volunteerism in the 1970s and 80s in the Stroudsburg area, helping to establish the Tannersville Cranberry Bog Preserve and volunteering with the Nature Conservancy. David Buck worked on the Monroe County Open Space Planning Commission and presided over the Pocono Audubon Chapter and Pocono Citizens for Conser-

vation.

After relocating to Sugar Run along the Susquehanna River in Bradford County in 1998, the Bucks started Endless Mountain Outfitters, a canoe and kayak sales and guiding business. They are actively involved with the Endless Mountains Heritage Region and have helped organize countless river festivals, trips and sojourns.

David is the Susquehanna North Branch Water Trail manager, Susquehanna Greenway Coordinator and was awarded the Pennsylvania Trail Advocate of the Year in 2010 from the American Trails Association.

The Bucks received the Volun-

teer of the Year Award for their continued support of the Land Trust's mission and commitment of volunteering time to many events, committees and activities.

As is becoming a tradition at NBLT, the organization no longer bestows physical awards such as plaques upon its Volunteer of the Year award recipients but, instead, makes a donation to a deserving non-profit in the names of the honorees.

This year monetary gifts will be made by NBLT to EarthWatch on behalf of Zack Kaufer and to the Oldest House in Laceyville on behalf of Melody and David Buck.

RSA is presented to Mt. Zion

Mark A. DiPippa, president of Rock Solid Academy, finished the 2011 church tour for the academy at Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Wilkes-Barre. DiPippa reminded the congregation to support the school with prayer, sharing the news about Rock Solid Academy and using their time, talent and/or treasure to advance the mission of the school. Rock Solid Academy will open a new tour in 2012 by scheduling churches for DiPippa to attend and share the vision of the school.



Mark A. DiPippa, president of Rock Solid Academy, recently finished his church tour at Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Wilkes-Barre. From left, are Deacon Donald S. Williams, DiPippa, Deacon Charles Gilliom, Deacon Deborah Whitaker and Deacon Wayne Whitaker.

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 Kingston, PA 18704 Scranton, PA 18507

Janney  
 kkleinman@janney.com | www.KeithRKleinman.com  
 Janney Montgomery Scott LLC | Member NYSE FINRA SIPC

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