

The DALLAS POST

50¢

WILKES-BARRE, PA.

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AN EDITION OF THE TIMES LEADER

Peyton brings talent to Misericordia

By SARAH HITE
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Former Indianapolis Colts quarterback Peyton Manning is taking his career to a new level — he's decided to travel east to Misericordia University in Dallas Township, where he'll play during the Cougars' first Division III football season.

Manning recently signed with the Denver Broncos, but after former Broncos star quarterback Tim Tebow moved on to the New York Jets, Manning felt he was

"Speaking of fresh, can I get a change of shoes? I think I stepped in something."

Peyton Manning
At press conference at The Lands at Hillside Farms

"stepping into Tebow's shadow." "(Tebow) had such a great season, and I didn't even play. Starting at Misericordia will give both parties a fresh start," Manning said at a press conference held at The Lands at Hillside Farms grazing pasture. "Speaking of

fresh, can I get a change of shoes? I think I stepped in something."

Coaches at Misericordia welcome the four-time NFL Most Valuable Player recipient, though they said it won't be an easy transition.

"Our program is going to be

tough," said one coach who wished to remain anonymous. "In addition to traditional tactics, we've been training by swimming around the docks at Harveys Lake, dodging cars on routes 309 and 415, and climbing up and down the steps in Mercy Hall on campus. We've got the home turf advantage."

Manning is well-known for his outlandish pre-snap routine. Misericordia coaches said while it will bring some publicity to the

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Former Indianapolis Colts quarterback Peyton Manning will continue to wear blue when he starts as the Misericordia University Cougars' quarterback for the 2012-13 season.



Jessica Zurawski, of Harveys Lake, and her daughter, Rebecca, read together during a story time about children with disabilities at the Back Mountain Memorial Library.

LEARNING ACCEPTANCE

Step By Step employees visit library to teach children about those with disabilities.

By SARAH HITE
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Youngsters gathered in the children's wing of the Back Mountain Memorial Library on March 21 to learn more about children with disabilities in recognition of March as Intellectually Disadvantaged Month.

Employees from Step By Step, Inc., an organization located in Wilkes-Barre that provides support services to those living with disabilities, chose two books to read to 3, 4 and 5-year-olds in attendance.

"We do a project every year where we go out to as many schools as possible to teach kids about people with intellectual dis-

abilities and autism awareness," said Diane Kendig, of Step By Step.

Step By Step employee Mary Pilarik read the books "My Brother Charlie" by actress Holly Robinson Peete and "French Fries Please!" by local author Sandra Munro King.

"My Brother Charlie" is based on Peete's own experiences growing up with her autistic twin brother, R.J. "French Fries Please!" is about a child with Autism Spectrum Disorder who has difficulty trying new foods.

"Kids are aware of intellectual disability," said Kendig. "It's nice, if anything, to make them aware before they reach school age to

"It's good experience for her to hear about this, that kids with disabilities aren't any different."

Jill Antall
Dallas

know that students with special needs are OK, that they can accept them and treat them as friends."

Jill Antall and her 3-year-old daughter, Julia, of Dallas attending the reading group at the library every week, but it was the first time Julia had been exposed to the subject at hand.

"It's good experience for her to hear about this, that kids with dis-

abilities aren't any different," said Jill Antall.

Jessica Zurawski and her 3-year-old daughter, Rebecca, enjoyed the books, and the elder Zurawski said she believes kids don't care much about the differences of people — they accept everyone.

"I think kids understand that everyone is different, but they're accepting of everyone," she said.

HARVEYS LAKE BOROUGH

Borough, 911 disagree about dispatching

By STEVE MOCARSKY
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Back Mountain emergency responders are giving the new Luzerne County administration two weeks to resolve an ongoing dispute with county 911 officials before bringing things to a head

with county council.

Emergency responders from seven Back Mountain communities on Monday night attended a press conference called by Harveys Lake officials to make the public aware of problems they are having with county 911 dispatch protocols.

Harveys Lake Deputy Emer-

gency Management Agency Coordinator Rich Williams said the press conference was necessary because he called county manager Robert Lawton six times about the issue and Lawton did not return a call until Williams informed him he was going to

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Library's book shop extends operation hours

By SARAH HITE
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Ruth Tetschner always wanted to own a book store.

But that dream was too expensive — and too risky — to come to fruition.

"Book shops have a high rate of failure," said Tetschner, an avid reader.

Now the former teacher and principal at the Dallas and Westmoreland elementary schools can say she runs a book shop, though the books inside the shop have been Slightly Read.

Tetschner, of Trucksville, is the manager of the Slightly Read Bookshop in the basement of the Back Mountain Memorial Library on Huntsville Road.

Tetschner ran the book shop in its early stages before moving away from the area. When former manager Fred Krohle died in early January, Tetschner stepped back into the position.

"I have a book shop that has no rent, no paid personnel and the inventory is donated," she said.

The shop has increased its hours to be open six days a week, making it even more competitive with stores that carry brand new books.

"We're the largest used book store in Luzerne County," said Tetschner.

About 40 volunteers donate their time and skills to keep the book shop running. It got its start in 1998 after library board members noticed the overflow of books for sale at the library's annual auction.

All the shop's proceeds benefit the Back Mountain Memorial Library. Tetschner estimates it draws in about \$10,000



Ruth Tetschner, who admits she always wanted a book store of her own, finds herself in command again at the Slightly Read Bookshop located in the basement of the Back Mountain Memorial Library.

yearly for the library, but more days open for business will mean more money to keep the library afloat.

Many of the book shop's current volunteers have donated time there since the store's humble beginnings. Three volunteers who helped sort books on a recent Wednesday admitted they've been working at the shop for about 10 years each.

Tetschner said the volunteers keep the book store going, and the donations keep the book store filled. She estimates there are about 12,000 books in the shop at any given time.

Sometimes the books received are already a well-known part of the inventory. For example, the shop is currently running a "Steal a Steele" special, in which patrons can buy a book by Danielle Steele and receive another for free. The shop has more than 250 Steele books.

"I sold about 15 of them and then got a donation that replaced the ones I sold," laughed

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Keeping books in order at the Slightly Read Bookshop in the basement of the Back Mountain Memorial Library are, from left, volunteers Kathy Waltos, Nancy Dingman and Rita Balberchak.

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