THE DALLAS POST

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BILL TARUTIS/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Christine Zavaskas of Leadership Wilkes-Barre shows donations from two supply drives that her group donated to Blue Chip Farms Animal Refuge at a volunteer appreciation picnic at the refuge in Franklin Township.

OLUNTEERS

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fast and we needed visiting hours because I live here. People stop by at all hours and we can't get everything done."

Bart said part of the problem, too, is the growing need for more volunteers at the shelter. Currently, Bart has about 10 "very dedicated" volunteers and 30 "off and on" volunteers.

"That's typical for any organization, but we need more," she said.

Bart also said the Leadership Wilkes-Barre group sponsored the installation of air conditioning and electrical upgrades in the Kitty Cottage in addition to the food and supply drive, which was held at Pet Supplies Plus in Wilkes-Barre.

Theresa Sufleta, of Sweet Valley, has been volunteering at Blue Chip for three years and wishes ne could do more.

"When I get stressed out, it's a good feeling to be here, knowing I'm helping the animals," said Sufleta.

George Layaou, of Franklin Township, said after he retired, he had nothing better to do, but he chose to volunteer at Blue Chip because of its mission and the people involved.

"The people here seem to have a goal - they aren't doing it because they want to be seen doing it," he said. "They aren't doing it for the fame and fortune."

Layaou said sometimes it's a ifficult job - especially since ed. st of the animals who come to



Blue Chip Farms Animal Refuge President Marge Bart expresses her appreciation for a new sign sponsored by Leadership Wilkes-Barre.



Blue Chip Farms Animal Refuge volunteer Sara Horton plays with Zeek, a German shorthaired pointer at the kennel in Franklin Township.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information about Blue Chip Farms Animal Refuge, visit www.bcfanimalrefuge.org.

ed on a road beneath the bridge. Layaou said the county in which the dog was found had no animal control services, so the dog was taken to Blue Chip. Within a week, the dog, which Bart named Gigi after Layaou and his son George Jr., was adopt-

"We have 30-some dogs – we're

she said.

Swanson wants to promote values and traditions on which the Grange was founded, such as hometown roots and family.

"Honesty, integrity, patriot-"I remember the pork and ism, love of country – these are sauerkraut suppers when I was the things we learned at our little," she. "They were always mothers' knees," she.

She hopes the Grange can provide activities for families post recently had members of and children in the community the state Grange attend a meet- as a way to help youngsters ing to revitalize the post, in- learn from their elders.

"My sister said she would go and trying to boost member- to the Grange and a woman there would teach her and oth-She said the Grange previ- er children how to cook," said Swanson. "She taught my sister sis, and the group did not how to make salads.'

Swanson also would like to see the Grange provide services "I said, if I don't do some- to the community, such as making care packages for those in the military or teaching locals how to tend a garden.

"This is a place where people can get together and do activ-"This excites me because ities that are inexpensive," she there's just so much to offer said.





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Mountain Grange 567 President Carol Swanson leafs through Grange literature at the Grange Hall in Kingston Township.

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the Grange is known for its grassroots activism and had an important role in women's suffrage. "They always try to keep it half men and half women," she said. "During the wom-

Continued from Page 1

served family-style."

ship.

ments.

she said.

Grange.

Swanson said the Grange

cluding setting meeting dates

ously met on a haphazard ba-

strictly follow Grange require-

thing, we're going to lose this,"

Currently the group has 17 members, and 10 members just

joined at the May meeting.

people," Swanson said of the

In addition to providing

outlets for families to spend

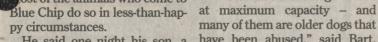
time together, Swanson said

en's rights movement, women could vote in the Grange but they couldn't vote elsewhere."

But the Grange has changed some, too. Anyone can join the Grange - it's not just a rural-based organization anymore. The Grange is Christian-based, but Swanson said members of other religions are welcome to join.

"To hold a meeting, you must have an American flag and an open Bible present,"





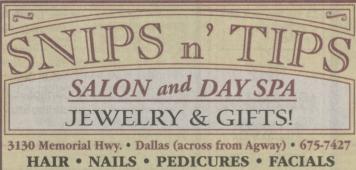
He said one night his son, a state trooper, was called out to investigate a dog that had been or a kitten. We have a lot of older thrown off a bridge. Layaou said animals here than can be alone the owners had expected the dog for eight to 10 hours a day and to hit water and drown, but in- would love to have you come stead the dog hit a pole and land- home."

many of them are older dogs that have been abused," said Bart. "Everyone doesn't need a puppy

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