

CIVIC BRIEFS

Music Box slates auditions

The Music Box Repertory Company will hold auditions for "Fame Jr." at 6:30 p.m. today, May 20 at the Music Box Dinner Playhouse, 196 Hughes St., Swyersville.

The musical is for young adults ages 12-20. Those auditioning are asked to bring a CD or iPod with a karaoke track of a song of their choice to sing. All will be asked to read from the script.

There is no fee to participate in this show. Performance dates will be June 22, 23 and 24.

'Wizard of Oz' at Music Box

The Music Box Repertory Company will present a musical for children, "The Wizard of Oz" today, May 20 at the Music Box Playhouse, 196 Hughes St., Swyersville.

All tickets are \$12 and include a McDonald's Fun Meal. Performance times are 6 p.m. Friday, 1 and 5 p.m. Saturday and 1 p.m. Sunday.

Tickets are now on sale and can be purchased by calling 283-2195.

JT Fire Dept. plans Open House

The Jackson Twp. Volunteer Fire Dept. and Ambulance Association will hold an Open House from 1 to 4 p.m. today, May 20 at the fire department, 1160 Chase Road.

There will be free refreshments, door prizes, safety material and equipment demonstrations.

SAL meets May 21

Harveys Lake American Legion Post 967 Sons of the American Legion will meet at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, May 21 at the post home, 4907 Memorial Hwy., Dallas.

Nomination of officers will take place. Food will be served after the meeting.

Bingo set for Monday

Bingo will be held on Monday, May 21, at the Northmoreland Township Fire Hall.

Doors open at 5 p.m. and early birds start at 6:30 p.m. Food and beverages will be available.

For more information, call 333-4906.

Roast beef dinner planned

A roast beef dinner will be held from 4:30 to 7 p.m. on Wednesday, May 23 at the Northmoreland Twp. Fire Hall.

Tickets, which can be purchased at the door, are \$8 for adults and \$4 for children under 12 years of age.

For more information, call 333-4906.

PennFuture plans program at Hillside

Citizens for Pennsylvania's Future (PennFuture) and The Lands at Hillside Farms will host an evening of food and drink from 6 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, May 24 at Hillside's historic Coach Barn, 65 Hillside Road, Shavertown.

Speakers will lead a discussion on the impact of climate change on food supply in Pennsylvania and what local citizens can do about it.

Guests will enjoy local and sustainably produced hors d'oeuvres, ciders, wines and beers as well as informational displays highlighting key elements related to Pennsylvania's changing climate.

Admission is free for PennFuture members and \$10 for non-members. Reservations can be made by calling 208-1757.

Dinner will kick off library auction

A dinner to kick off the annual Back Mountain Memorial Library Auction will be held at 6 p.m. on Monday, June 4 at Apple Tree Terrace.

A social hour will be followed by a buffet-style dinner and a mini auction.

For ticket information, call the Back Mountain Memorial library at 675-1182.

Estate planning workshop slated

The Masonic Village at Dallas will sponsor an estate planning workshop from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 6 at the Irem Clubhouse, 64 Ridgway Drive, Dallas.

Attorney Alvin Blitz will discuss decisions that need to be made when preparing a will, power of attorney and living will.

The program is free of charge. For reservations, call 675-1866 by June 5.

Siberski will speak to group

Jim Siberski will be the guest speaker at the Dallas Alzheimer's Support Group meeting from 10:30 to 1 p.m. on Tuesday, June 7 at the Meadows Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, 4 E. Center Hill Road, Dallas.

Talk attempts to thwart bullying

Etiquette expert Jill Evans Kryston talks to girls at TUMC salad supper.

By SARAH HITE
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A bullying prevention program was hosted by Jill Evans Kryston at the annual Women's Salad Supper sponsored by the Susanna Children and Family Fellowship group on May 6 at the Trucksville United Methodist Church education center.

Women and school-age children attended the luncheon, during which Evans Kryston spoke about the increased instances of bullying in schools and how students can deal with bullying behavior.

Evans Kryston, owner of Defining Manners: A School of Contemporary Protocol in Shavertown, said etiquette is about honing relationships, and bullying is just the opposite.

"Etiquette can be used to change that bullying behavior," she said.

Evans Kryston said bullies thrive on the imbalance of power and she emphasizes that focusing on others' feelings can help deter some of their bullying tendencies.

"There's a wrong way and a right way to deal with bullying," she said.

She said most of what contributes to a person's success in life is how fine-tuned their people skills are — not just education and technical skills.

Dallas Middle School student Ivy Chamberlain, 14, of Trucksville, believes bullying is a problem in younger children because of insecurities.

"I see it all the time," she said. "With girls, they do it mostly behind each other's backs or most girls bully online. I see a lot of boys bullying girls, too."

Chamberlain even said she's been bullied before, but mostly when she was a student in elementary school.

"People would say 'you're fat' and other really nasty things to me," she said. "It was mostly in like fifth grade."

Though she would occasionally bully others, Chamberlain re-



Kelly Williams, of Trucksville, reads the poem 'A Mother's Love' at the Trucksville United Methodist Church Education Center's Women's Salad Supper.

grets making those hasty decisions.

"I apologize — I try not to be mean to people's faces," she said. "I think people do it because they're insecure."

Chamberlain said talking out issues might be the answer, but she said it still remains a problem.

Kiera Gross, 16, of Trucksville, doesn't see a lot of bullying at Dallas High School because the administration is very pro-active in combating the issue.

"We have a lot of programs about it," she said. "I don't really see it at school."

Teacher Amy Burke, of Kingston, sees bullying in schools all the time and believes administrators need to open their eyes more to students' concerns.

"Schools say they have a no bullying policy, but it's not true," she said.

Burke's 8-year-old daughter Chloe has been bullied before and said "people being mean to other people" is a commonplace activity at elementary school.

"People bully because they're jealous," she said.

Evans Kryston told the girls in attendance that those who are bullied aren't the only ones who can stand up for themselves.

"There's a famous quote by

Martin Luther King Jr. 'In the end, we will remember not the word of our enemies but the silence of our friends.' I try to teach that," she said.

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