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Paving the way to the auction

By SARAH HITE
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LIBRARY AUCTION

Roadwork being done on Huntsville Road should not interfere with the Back Mountain Memorial Library Auction this weekend, said a county official.

Luzerne County Chief Engineer Joe Gibbons said the project to reconstruct Huntsville Road was 95 percent complete as of June 25, and anything that needs to get done during the auction will be put off until after the four-day event.

"We've been in close coordination with the borough, and with the importance and community significance of the Back Mountain Library Auction, we've scheduled the work around allowing as much access as we can during time of auction," said Gibbons. "The contractor has stated the project will be done before the auction, and we naturally strive to do that, but if we don't think we can make it, we will hold off until the auction is over so the community can enjoy the event with limited disturbances."

He said the project has been in progress for about two years, and it's more than just repaving the road. Centuries-old roads need more work than a layer of asphalt, he said.

"We went from horse and buggy pathways to paved cart ways, which limited the amount of pavement structure. The roads

were not necessarily engineered to properly handle current traffic loading," said Gibbons. "This project is different from normal resurfacing, which usually includes removing an inch-and-a-half and replacing an inch-and-a-half of road surface - it's the entire reconstruction of road, so it's assured adequately move people and commerce."

Gibbons said there have been portions of the road completely reconstructed while other structurally sound areas were simply resurfaced. In addition, new drainage systems were installed, curbs and sidewalks have been created, the road was widened by five feet and guardrails have been replaced.

Library director Martha Butler said the roadwork hasn't caused much commotion to the library auction committees and believes the road work will not be a problem come auction time.

"With any road work, there are minor inconveniences," she said. "I don't think this will be an issue for the auction or the set up of the

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CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Residents and neighbors wonder if long-awaited Luzerne County paving work on Huntsville Road in Dallas will interfere with this year's Back Mountain Library Auction.



BILL TARUTIS/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Dani Reiser, 10, right, of Shavertown, right, assisted by Sig the Viking, pets Baby Nadder of DreamWorks' 'How to Train Your Dragon Live Spectacular' during a visit to the JCC Summer Camp.

TRAINING THE DRAGONS

What stands over seven feet tall with a 14 foot tale, breathes smoke and can only be trained by a Viking? It's Baby Nadder who grows to 13 feet x 39 feet long with a wingspan up to 46 feet and weighs in at over two tons of fire-breathing fury. Baby Nadder was all the rage at the Jewish Community Center summer camp in Lehman Township on Tuesday afternoon as she and her Viking trainer visited campers. Baby Nadder and the Viking trainer are all part of Dreamworks' 'How to Train your Dragon Live Spectacular' appearing at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. today at the Mohegan Sun Arena at Casey Plaza. The show consists of 23 larger-than-life, fire-breathing, flying dragons from the most technologically advanced tour integrating animatronics, projections, a live cast and new technologies.



Baby Nadder of DreamWorks' 'How to Train Your Dragon Live Spectacular' greets 4-year-old Peter Naylor, left, of Kingston, and camp counselor Ashlyn Reiser, of Shavertown, during a visit to the JCC Summer Camp.

Scholarship answers their prayers

Sarah Bilski awarded largest amount of money ever given from Piper Charitable Trust.

By SARAH HITE
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With the rising costs of higher education, 2012 Dallas High School graduate Sarah Bilski and her mother Beth had concerns about paying for college tuition this fall.

"I was overwhelmed, didn't know where the money was going to come from," said Beth, a single mom. "All I kept thinking about were the student loans and the increase of the interest rates."

Beth and Sarah no longer have to worry about that.

Sarah, of Dallas, is the recipient of the Roy W. Piper Charitable Trust Scholarship, which awards her \$60,000, or \$15,000 for four years, when she attends Penn State University this fall.

"I was a nervous wreck, but our prayers were answered," said Beth.

Roy W. Piper was a Wyoming County businessman who died in 2007. Piper set up scholarships for high school seniors in Wyoming, Luzerne and Lackawanna counties six years before he died. Trustees administering the scholarships take into consideration financial need, community service and citizenship.

Sarah filled out the application for the scholarship after her grandfather told her about an ad in a local newspaper. She sent out her information and the waiting game began. It was a while before Sarah heard back from the trustees, asking for an interview in Clarks Summit.

"I got an e-mail that I would be part of the final interview with 24 other students," she said.

After more waiting, she received a letter, informing her she had received the huge award - the largest amount of money the trust had given to one student this year.

"I was completely speechless," Sarah said. "I was yelling into the phone when I was trying to tell my mother."

Beth was similarly excited about the announcement and urged her daughter to contact her grandfather almost immediately after receiving the good news.

After all, Sarah's future profession was inspired by him. Sarah hopes to study medicine, and she

specifically wants to study kidney dialysis using nanotechnology to try to find a better procedure.

"My grandfather has kidney cancer," she said. "He's not on dialysis now but he may need to be."

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DAMA withdraws application

A zoning hearing scheduled for June 25 for the Dallas Area Municipal Authority's application to create a compost facility at the State Correctional Institute at Dallas was cancelled due to DAMA's application withdrawal. A hearing has not been rescheduled.

At a supervisors' meeting earlier this month, residents expressed concerns about noise, traffic and security at the proposed site.

DAMA Solicitor Benjamin Jones III said the application was withdrawn pending further

research and meeting with representatives from the state Department of Corrections.

He said the DAMA board plans to resubmit the application.

- Sarah Hite



BILL TARUTIS/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Sarah Bilski, of Dallas Township, a 2012 graduate of Dallas High School, is the recipient of the Roy W. Piper Charitable Trust Scholarship to Penn State University.

