



Becky Andrews helps Anna Polishan with her popsicle.



Sophie Farina and Cheyanna Snyder share a laugh.



"Ocho" the octopus, aka Rev. Lynn Snyder, makes a daily appearance.

Kids 'Dive In' to VBS at SUMC

'Operation Overboard' is Vacation Bible School theme

Shavertown United Methodist Church hosted its annual Vacation Bible School the week of July 22 with the theme "Operation Overboard: Dare to Go Deep with God."

Families were encouraged to visit the church for a free cooked dinner prepared by Sandy Michalisin and her kitchen team each night at 5:30 p.m. followed by a high energy VBS program.

Chief Rebecca Oley and her Dive Crew led the children with music and dancing as each night they introduced a new Bible verse and a Pearl of the Day: Depend on God, Dare to Care, Claim Jesus and Choose to Follow.

The message was reinforced by a visit from Rev. M. Lynn Snyder, disguised as "Ocho" the Octopus each night.

The VBS message was also evident in the High Tide Hangout games organized by Beth and Mike Viglone and Aquatic Arts and Crafts organized by Karen Fiorello and her family.

Two mission projects were supported throughout the week. The first mission involved collecting small toys, games and other amusements to fill over 50 Jared Boxes which will be donated to the Janet Weis Children's Hospital in Danville and distributed to hospitalized children to keep them occupied when they are ill.

The second mission collected \$1,003 to support SUMC member Susan Roese in purchasing art supplies for deaf children at a school in Dakar, Senegal where she will deliver the supplies and give art lessons later this year.

The VBS program, spearheaded by SUMC Christian Education Director Katie Hrivnak, was attended by over 90 children and supported by numerous adult and teen volunteers as well as donations from the Shavertown congregation.



The Dive Team with some of the collection taken for the Jared Boxes. From left, first row, Tessa Liskosky, Emily Carey, Chloe Miller, Bethany Fiorello, Ashley Kaleta. Second row, Emma Oley, Greg Navistad, Joey Fiorello, Malik Kaleta.



Anna Polishan tries to get a better view.



Members of the Shavertown United Methodist Church Vacation Bible School Dive Team are, from left, Chris Blessecker, Bethany Fiorello, Joey Fiorello, Greg Navistad, Emma Oley, Tessa Liskosky, Rebecca Oley, Ashley Kaleta and Amy Wall.

Locals perform with 'Kirby Kidz' next weekend

Production marks conclusion of seven-week theater workshop.

"Disney's Cinderella Kids and Fame JR" will be staged at 6 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, Aug. 17 and 18 at the F. M. Kirby Center in Wilkes-Barre.

The production marks the conclusion of a seven-week theater workshop held for regional children which began the end of June and focused on acting technique, theater fundamentals, vocal performance, dance terminology and performance.

Kirby Kidz is a product of the F.M. Kirby Center's and the Harris Conservatory for the Arts outreach programs, respectively, and is made possible in part with the support of the Passan Foundation.

This year, members of the Kirby Kidz were broken up into two different shows. Children ages 5 to 11 years old make up the cast of Cinderella Kids. Fame JR features the Kirby Kidz ages 12 through 16 years old.

Some of the Back Mountain residents who will be part of this weekend's performances are Hope Frantz, Shavertown; Giuliana Schineller, Dallas; Alan and Janice Lisman, Shavertown; Grace Nicolai, Dallas; Stephen, Kevin and Christopher Miller,



Some of the players from the Back Mountain communities who will appear with the 'Kirby Kidz' next weekend are, from left, first row, Christopher Miller, Dallas; Kevin Miller, Dallas; Stephen Miller, Dallas; Giuliana Schineller, Dallas; Grace Nicolai, Dallas. Second row, Alan Lisman, Shavertown; Janice Lisman, Shavertown; Hope Frantz, Shavertown; Lindsay Sherrick; Hunlock Creek. Third row, Justin Yavorski, Dallas.

Dallas; Grace and Alexander Aiello, Shavertown; Lindsay Sherrick, Hunlock Creek; and Justin Yavorski, Dallas. Tickets are \$15 in advance

and \$18 the days of the performance and are available at the Harris Conservatory for the Arts in Luzerne and the Kirby Box Office. Children 5 years of age and under will be admitted free.

For more information, call the Harris Conservatory for the Arts at 718-0673.

CHURCH BRIEFS

Harvest Assembly plans VBS

Vacation Bible School will be held from 9 a.m. to noon Aug. 13-15 at Back Mountain Harvest Assembly, Carverton Road, Trucksville.

For more information, call 696-1128 or log onto www.bmha.org.

Music camp set

Carl Shinko will direct a music camp for children ages 6-13 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Aug. 13-17 at St. Peter's, SR 6, Tunkhannock.

Call 836-2233 to reserve a space.

Chicken barbeque set for Saturday

The Maple Grove United Methodist Church, 5876 Main Road, Sweet Valley, (1/4 mile from O-Live Restaurant, Route 118) will hold its annual chicken barbeque from 4 to 7 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 18.

Adult dinners are \$80 (1/2 chicken, baked potato, corn-on-the-cob, cole slaw, cake and beverage) and child dinners are \$4, eat in or take out.

For information, call 639-2958.

Vendor fair set for Aug. 18

A vendor fair featuring direct sellers under one roof will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 18 at the Sweet Valley Fire Hall, Main Road, Sweet Valley.

LIUM Church plans summer services

The Lehman-Idetown United Methodist Church Summer Worship Services will be held through Aug. 19.

This will include an 8:30 a.m. contemporary worship service and a traditional service at 10 a.m. A coffee break will be from 9:30 to 9:55 a.m.

Vendor space available at HUMC

The Huntsville United Methodist Church, 2355 Huntsville Rd, Shavertown will have two community yard sales.

The first will be held from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 25 and the second will be held from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 22.

Outdoor vendor space is available for \$10. Call 477-3748 to reserve a space.