



The Misericordia University Cougar mascot high-fives PNC Bank representative Dolores Pall.

Noisy networking at Back Mountain Expo

By SUSAN DENNEY
Dallas Post Correspondent

For Don Webster, the noise level in Insalaco Hall at Misericordia University was a sure sign of success. Webster is the acting executive director of the Back Mountain Chamber and the noise was the conversations of visitors and participants in the April 17 Back Mountain Business and Community Expo.

Webster said the Chamber's mission includes three dimensions: commerce, community and culture and that the number of conversations going on in Insalaco Hall was proof that the Expo was accomplishing all those goals.

This was the fourth year for the Chamber-sponsored event which is hosted by Misericordia University. According to Chamber executive committee member Carl Goeringer, it was the first year the event sold out.

More than 75 businesses and non-profit organizations set up booths to spread awareness about their merchandise and promote contacts among participants.

The expo started with a 3 p.m. networking reception for all the participants catered by Gerrity's Supermarkets and Fire & Ice Restaurant.

At 4 p.m., the expo opened to the public.

Visitors talked with business owners, sampled food and chatted with team mascots, including the Nittany Lion from Penn State University and Tux from the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins.

A wide variety of participants, including banks, schools, medical and dental providers and retail



Christine Hess, left, and Jessie Shultz, both of Servpro, chat with Visiting Angels Senior Homecare representative Colette Check at the Back Mountain Chamber Expo at Misericordia University.

businesses, provided information about their services and products.

A surprising variety of churches and non-profits also promoted their programs and goals.

Giveaways, including hand lotion, toothbrushes, pens, buttons and candy, invited visitors to stop a minute and talk to a representative manning the booth.

Lauren O'Shea, of Shavertown, works for Hildebrandt Learning Centers, a company that provides employer-sponsored childcare management. When asked why her business had chosen to participate, she said, "To get our company's name out in Back Mountain." She also said another goal was to meet local businesses and partner in some way.

Misericordia professor Paul Nardone involved his business stu-

dents in the event.

Rachael Ayers, a senior in Business Management from Dallas, was part of the planning which involved many details, including picking the date and setting up for the event.

"Back Mountain Chamber is something that's interesting to me," said Ayers, who feels the event is important for the community. "It's a great networking opportunity for the businesses to mingle with each other."

Amanda Perlock, a senior Misericordia marketing major, said her marketing research class was doing a survey of the businesses and non-profits who participated and that the class would analyze data provided by participants and let the Chamber know how the expo can be improved in the future.



Chairpersons of the North Branch Land Trust 20th Anniversary Dinner Dance are, from left, Frank E.P. Conyngham, Cornelia C. Romanowski and William H. Conyngham.

North Branch Land Trust celebrates 20 years

North Branch Land Trust (NBLT) will celebrate its 20th anniversary of conserving important natural resources in Northeastern Pennsylvania at its annual dinner and auctions on Wednesday, May 8 at the Westmoreland Club in Wilkes-Barre.

The 20th anniversary dinner chairs are Cornelia C. Romanowski, Frank E.P. Conyngham and William H. Conyngham.

Dinner committee members are Jane Clements, Liz Clements-Katyl, Virginia Davis, Kathy Dunsmuir, Jim Gorman, Ramah Hackett, Terri Kosakowski, Paul Lumia, Leigh Pawling, Rachel Pugh-Domiano, Jason Reilly, Barb Romanansky, Jim Shoemaker, Julie McCarthy Strzeletz, Linda Thoma, Mike Weaver and Gary Williams.

Since its inception in 1993, NBLT has conserved over 12,200 acres of important natural land for watershed protection, local agriculture, outdoor recreation, habitat for threat-

ened and endangered species and scenic beauty. Of the 12,200 acres protected, NBLT owns 1,250 acres that are open to the public for passive recreation activities.

North Branch Land Trust is a private non-profit that relies on public support such as membership dues, donations, grants and fundraising events to carry out its conservation mission. The trust's annual dinner is its major fundraiser of the year.

This year NBLT will honor the community of Bear Creek Village with the its Community Stewardship Award for conservation efforts that led to the protection of 139 acres in that community.

To make reservations and support land conservation in your community or to learn about NBLT committee and volunteer opportunities, contact North Branch Land Trust at 696-5545 or by email at romanansky@nblt.org.



Pilger receives religious award

Dylan Pilger, an Eagle Scout from Troop 281, Dallas, was presented the God and Life Religious Award in Scouting. Pilger did 10 weeks of study with Rev. Roger Griffith and was presented the award at Trinity Presbyterian Church, Irem Road, Dallas, on April 14. Interim Pastor Rev. Kathleen Jamhoury and Mary Chappel of Pack 281 presented the award. The son of Robert and Charla Pilger, Pilger is a senior at Dallas High School. From left, are Rev. Kathleen Jamhoury, Dylan Pilger and Mary Chappel.

Grasshopper Lawns celebrates Earth Day at BMLL

Michael and Shawn Kravitski watched their children enjoy playing baseball for Back Mountain Baseball for Boys and Girls and decided to give back when they got the chance.

The owners of Grasshopper Lawns in Larksville, the Kravitski brothers, who both reside in the Back Mountain, chose to volunteer the services of their business at the Back Mountain Little League field in celebration of Earth Day.

Technicians from the 29-year-old family-owned business spent several hours on April 20 applying fertilizer, aerating and liming the field and conducting weed control.

Bill Holena, treasurer of Back Mountain Baseball for Boys and Girls, said the organization does business with Grasshopper Lawns and that every year Grasshopper Lawns chooses a project to celebrate Earth Day.

"This year, they chose the Back Mountain Little League field," said Holena, who added the Little League organization recently spent about \$90,000 to improve the field and that Grasshopper Lawn employees would help clean up from that construction project.

"Every year we volunteer at a local organization," said Kristy Kravitski, assistant office manager at Grasshopper Lawns. "Our route manager



Grasshopper Lawn technicians spread lime, aerate and spray weeds at the Back Mountain Little League Field.

usually makes the decision as to where we will provide community service."

Kravitski said all employees of the organization, including 11 technicians and two office staff members, were on hand at the Back Mountain Little League field last Saturday.

- Doty Martin



Volunteering their time to spruce up the Back Mountain Little League are, from left, Scott Edwards, John Patterson, Louis Cintron, Grasshopper Lawns owner Michael Kravitsky IV, Phillip Carbone and Bill Shultz.