

CIVIC BRIEFS

'SPELLING BEE'
AT MUSIC BOX

"The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" will be performed June 20-23 at the Music Box Dinner Playhouse, 196 Hughes St., Swyersville.

For more information, call 708-2195.

BLUE CHIP
FUNDRAISER

Keeley's Alehouse and Grille, 199 Division St., Kingston, will host a fundraiser for Blue Chip Farms Animal Refuge from 5 to 10 p.m. on Monday, June 17.

A portion of all sales (food and drink) will be donated to Blue Chip Farms Animal Refuge. Also volunteers from Blue Chip will be on hand selling raffle tickets for baskets and collecting "wish list" items.

BINGO PLANNED

Bingo will be held on Monday, June 17 at the Northmoreland Twp. Fire Hall In Centermoreland. Doors open at 5 p.m. and early birds start at 6:30 p.m. Food and beverage will be available.

For more information, call Jim at 333-4906.

SAFE BOATING CLASS

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 15-03 will offer a Safe Boating Class from 6 to 10 p.m. on Tuesday and Wednesday, June 18 and 19 at the American Legion, Route 415, Harveys Lake.

This course qualifies those who pass to obtain their PA Boaters Education Certificate and Card which entitles them to operate boats and personal watercrafts on Pennsylvania's rivers and lakes.

Participants must be at least 12 years or older. Contact R.J. Kwiatkowski at 815-0471 for more information and reservations. The fee is \$25 payable at the door on the first night of the class.

BOBACK LISTS HOURS

State Rep. Karen Boback will hold office hours from 9 a.m. to noon on Wednesday, June 19 at the Benton Senior Center located in the Northern Columbia Community and Cultural Center, 42 Community Drive.

TEEN ORIENTATION

An orientation for the summer teen program at the Meadows Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Dallas will be held from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 19 in the center's multipurpose room. Pre-registration is required.

To register or for more information, call the volunteer department at 675-8600, ext. 195.

ROUNDTABLE MEETS

The Wyoming Valley Civil War Roundtable will meet at 7 p.m. on Thursday, June 20 in the lower level of the Daddow-Isaacs American Legion, 730 Memorial Highway, Dallas.

The speaker for the evening will be Taylor Polites, from Rhode Island, who will present his program "First Occupation of Huntsville Alabama in 1862".

All meetings are open to the public. A \$3 donation is asked of non-members. For more information, call 675-8936.

RADIO CLUB HOLDS
FIELD DAY

Endless Mountain Amateur Radio Club will hold its annual field day event from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. on June 22 and from 7 a.m. to noon on June 23 at the emergency services building, 3880 SR 6 Tunkhannock.

Learn about radio communications and how to become a ham.

For further information, call Al at 836-5030 or Joe at 209-0070.

BEEF DINNER

The Sweet Valley Volunteer Fire Co. will hold a family-style beef dinner from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 22. Takeouts begin at 4 p.m.

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BACK MOUNTAIN BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: OCHMAN'S COINS AND JEWELRY



Fran Ochman, left, and Maryann Ochman, right, now run Ochman's Coins and Jewelry, Dallas, which was established in 1979 by the late Tom Ochman.

At Ochman's, it's all about friendships, coins, jewelry

By ELIZABETH BAUMEISTER
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Ochman's Coins and Jewelry, 2607 Memorial Highway, Dallas, as its name suggests, specializes in buying and selling both new and used coins and jewelry. But just as - or more - important to the owners and staff are the friendships formed through the business since its establishment in 1979.

"We've met some amazing friends over the years," said Maryann Ochman, 38, daughter of the original owner, the late Tom Ochman. "You never know who or what is going to come in the door, and that's the fun part."

She and Fran Ochman, wife of Tom Ochman, both said the best part of running the business is interacting with the customers.

They said they believe the business to be unique because of the variety of goods and services and the "personal touch" they aim to provide each individual customer.

"They come in and we get to know them," Maryann Ochman said. "We try to make ourselves accessible to people at any time." One regular customer who the Ochmans also call friend is Ed Reiter, senior editor of "COINage" and former New York Times columnist. He said the two aspects which keep him coming back are the "friendliness" and "excellent selection of coins."

The shop was formerly located at 18 Church St., Dallas, and moved to the current location, which is larger, on April 1.

"We like being in the heart of the Back Mountain," said Maryann Ochman.

Fran added, "People have been very welcoming here."

The business is described on its website, ochmans.com, as two-sided. "On one side," states the "About Us" page, "Ochman's is your local full service jewelry store offering: fine quality gold and silver jewelry in the newest designs, a full line of diamond and gemstone jewelry, ladies and men's



Fran Ochman adjusts a jewelry display at Ochman's Coins and Jewelry, Dallas.

watches, and expert jewelry repair. In addition to the new jewelry, Ochman's offers a fine line of estate jewelry for sale and Ochman's is always interested in purchasing additional antique jewelry."

"On the other side," it continues, "Ochman's buys and sells gold coins, silver coins and old US currency. Ochman's offers gold and silver as an alternative investment to the stock market. Also, Ochman's carries a wide selection of gold and silver coins for collectors who may be looking to find that one special coin or others just starting coin collecting as a new hobby."

The Ochmans also said they are active members of the community in many ways. The shop donates to the library auction, Maryann is a founding member of the Dallas Harvest Festival, they are both active in St. Theresa's Church, both are members of two local coin clubs, Fran is president of the Wilkes-Barre Coin Club and the store has won The Dallas Post's Best of the Back Mountain award for best jeweler five years in a row.

MEET THE
OCHMANS:
FRAN AND
MARYANN

Residence: Both reside in Shaver-town

What are your favorite kinds of jewelry? Fran: cameos and antiques. **What do you do for fun?** Fran: "I like to go to movies, out to dinner, hockey games. I like the Penguins." **If you could go anywhere on vacation, where would it be?** Fran: "The beach at Cape May."

Gold or silver? Fran: "Silver coins, gold jewelry."

Do you have any favorite business quotes or mottos? Maryann: "Our customers are our number one priority." **What is your advice to new business owners?** Maryann: "You better love what you do and do it because you love it, not because you're going to make money on it."

Dallas High grads receive Ehret Awards

Two Dallas High School graduates have received Corey A. Ehret Scholarship Awards.

Megan Redlich received the Corey A. Ehret Student of the Quarter Scholarship in memory of Ehret for her artist talents such as painting the Dallas insignia on the school gym floor and authoring the book "Demise of the Spirit's Guiding Lady." Ehret was recognized for two consecutive years with the Dallas High School "School Spirit" Award.

Katie Metcalf received the Corey A. Ehret Cross County Scholarship Award in memory of Ehret for her determination and achievement, not only as a runner, but as a strong team member and never giving it up for something easier.

The Corey Ehret Cross County Scholarship is awarded in memory of Ehret who, after 40 weeks of arduous chemotherapy and radiation, returned to run a full season, with the Dallas High School cross country team.

"Never stop believing, pray often and no pain no gain" were Ehret's sayings and actions, stated the Ehret family. "His determination to achieve in spite of the side effects of his treatment gave him the strength to once again be a part of the Dallas High School cross country team."

Recipients received an engraved crystal glass valor award along with a \$500 scholarship. Eligible candidates were selected by a team made up of faculty, administration athletic department and the Ehret family.

It's time to 'Dig Into READING!'

All children and teens who take part in the Back Mountain Memorial Library's summer reading program, "Dig into READING!" are invited to participate in these upcoming special programs.

"Dig Into Diggers!" - Monday, June 17, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. with Chad Honeywell of CB Honeywell Construction. Get up close to a really big piece of construction equipment, learn how it works and why and when it is used. Gather in the back of the library on the auction grounds. Bring your camera. All ages.

"Dinosaurs Rock!" - Luzerne County Libraries Program - Wednesday, June 19, 10:30 a.m. at the King's College Sheehy-Farmer Campus Center. You have the rare opportunity to see and touch genuine and life-size museum quality specimens: a life-size five foot T-Rex skull and foot, a dinosaur egg, trilobites, ammonites and much, much more. It's an educational, entertaining and totally hands-on dinosaur and fossil adventure. Go to King's College but register at the library.

"Dig Into Burrowing Animals!" - Wednesday, June 26, 2 to 3 p.m. Kathy Kelchner, Environmental Educator at Frances Slocum State Park, will be at the library to show and tell you about animals that make their homes under the ground. She may even have a few bones to show you. All ages. Children's Room.

"Dig Into Archeology!" - Monday, July 1, 2 to 3 p.m. Come see the wonders that Theodore Baird has dug up right here in our area. Learn some history and see some artifacts. All ages. Children's Room.

Carl Bartizek graduates from Drexel University

Carl Albert Bartizek, son of Ronald and Charlotte Bartizek, of Dallas, has graduated from Drexel University, class of 2013, with a 5-year bachelor of science degree from the College of Information Science and Technology.

He will be employed at Cigna Insurance Co. in Philadelphia as an information protection analyst.

Bartizek is a 2008 graduate of Wyoming Seminary.



Bartizek



Ochman's Coins and Jewelry, Dallas, displays local National Bank Notes from 1905 and 1929.