



Iraq veteran visits students

Corporal Richard O. Blaine of the 82nd Airborne visited classrooms in Wycallis Elementary School to tell about his experiences in Iraq. Kindergarten students showed him the personal care items they have collected for servicemen on their way to Iraq.

From left: Bethany Dombek, Andrew Christman Kyleigh Kravits and Corporal Richard O. Blaine.

College wins nursing scholarship funds

The Pennsylvania Higher Education Foundation has announced the distribution of \$604,000 in grants to area nursing programs through the foundation's Nursing Education Grants Program, which will distribute nearly \$5 million statewide to help nursing students. The announcement came during a press conference at College Misericordia.

The foundation established the grant program with support from PHEAA and The Hospital and Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania (HAP) to make nursing education more accessible and affordable. The program helps to reverse the Commonwealth's nursing shortage by generating financial support which otherwise is not available to schools. This funding, in turn, helps Pennsylvania schools increase the recruitment and retention rates of their nursing programs, providing qualified nurses for the citizens of Pennsylvania.

Funds totaling \$604,000 have been earmarked to assist 15 area nursing schools, including College Misericordia, the University of Scranton and Wilkes University.

"We are facing a nursing crisis throughout Pennsylvania and too few students are entering into the nursing profession to adequately address this crisis," said Senator Charles D. Lemmond, Jr. "To add to this crisis, the cost of a nursing education has increased, placing the average nursing student in



Kristin King of Dallas, a nursing major at College Misericordia, spoke during the press conference about the importance of scholarships to nursing students.

debt exceeding \$18,000."

By providing aid directly to nursing education programs, the foundation is making Pennsylvania's nursing schools a more attractive choice to future nurses and providing Pennsylvania's citizens with qualified nursing care.

"Nursing educators such as those at College Misericordia know the trends all too well. Al-

though College Misericordia and institutions like us have seen a steep climb in undergraduate nursing enrollment over the last three years, national and state-wide data still suggest that the demand for educated nursing professionals will exceed the supply for the foreseeable future," explains Donna Ayers Snelson, Chair of CM's Nursing Department.

Dean's list

The following students from the local area have been named to the dean's list at their college or university:

University of Scranton

Nivedita Bijlani, Dallas; Emily Blaum, Dallas; Jamie Daron, Shavertown; David Fine, Sweet Valley; Lauren Grant, Dallas; Lindsay Jenkins, Shavertown; Lorraine Lovecchio, Dallas; AmyLynn Pizzano, Dallas; Matthew Zinn, Dallas.

King's College

The following students qualified for the fall 2003 dean's list at King's College, having achieved a grade point average of 3.4 or higher:

Dallas: James Abrams, Candace Alaimo, Christopher Appel, Cory Brin, Todd Buckley, Timothy Carroll, Jennifer Coolbaugh, Jeannie Dreier, Erica Harvey, Joshua Heffers, Ashley Jacopetti, Leigh Jacopetti, Samantha Leandri, Timur Maskayev, Jessica Milbrodt, Jamie Miller, Michael Miller, Lindsay Howell.

Harveys Lake: Matthew Hinton, Kimberly Urban, Shavertown: Brian Gill, Matthew Gingo, Donora Hillard, Nicholas Leonard, Theodore Mike, Jamie Pikul, Jeffrey Rothstein, Bryan Wagn-

er, Abigail Wasserott.

Sweet Valley: Lyle Harvey, Tunkhannock: Laura Dussinger, Eric Gelsleichter, Jeffrey Hahn, Sarah Keller, Jacquelyn Lauver, Fallon Remington, Justine Spring, Kristen Szychowski.

U.S. Military Academy

Cadet Matthew Schweitzer, Dallas.

Widener University

Amanda Donahue, Dallas, Main Campus.

Graduates

The following students from the local area have graduated from their respective college or university:

Shippensburg University, fall 2003

Jonathan Saba, Dallas, BA Psychology
Gary Youngblood, Dallas, BS Public Administration

College info night at L-L

The Lake-Lehman Senior High School Guidance Department is sponsoring an "Informational Evening" on Thursday, February 26 at 7 p.m. in the High School Auditorium. Topics pertaining to the college application process, including financial aid availability, will be discussed. All parents of juniors are encouraged to attend.

OT camp at College Misericordia

The Occupational Therapy Department at College Misericordia is again sponsoring a residential summer camp for students interested in occupational therapy as a possible career choice. The camp will be held July 11-14, on the college campus.

The camp is designed to educate high school juniors and seniors who would like to learn more about careers in occupational therapy. During the three-day camp students will have a chance to work with persons with disabilities both at the college and in the community, have an opportunity to meet and interact with faculty members, and be hosted by several current junior level occupation therapy students.

Students who will be juniors or seniors in the 2004-2005 academic year are encouraged to apply. Applications are available through school guidance counselors after March 1 or online at the OT web page, www.misericordia.edu. The deadline for applications is April 15. Students who are selected to participate will be notified by May 15.

Lake-Lehman kindergarten registration

Lake-Lehman School District will hold kindergarten registration and screening for eligible kindergarten students on March 8, 9, and 10.

Lake-Lehman School District policy states that a child must be 5 years of age on or before September 1, 2004, and fully immunized in accordance with the latest regulations of the Pennsylvania Department of Health, in order to register for kindergarten for the 2004-2005

school year. Kindergarten in the Lake-Lehman School District is an all-day program.

Parents or guardians must accompany the student during the registration process and present a birth certificate, Social Security number, proof of residency (driver's license or utility bill with), and immunization record for the child. Immunizations required are the three doses of hepatitis B vaccine, three doses of polio,

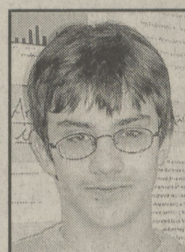
four doses of DTP (fourth dose after the fourth birthday), two doses of MMR, and varicella (chicken pox) vaccine or date that the child had the disease.

Registration will be held on March 8 for Lehman-Jackson (675-2165), March 9 for Lake-Noxen (639-1129) and March 10 for Ross (477-5050). The time for each child will depend on last name. Call your local elementary for the time your child should register.

Schmid wins Sem Lower School spelling bee

Joseph Schmid of Shavertown, an eighth-grade student at Wyoming Seminary Lower School, survived seven rounds of competition to win the school's annual spelling bee, correctly spelling the word "perpetrator." The Times Leader sponsors the bee. John Burbank, Dean of the Lower School, was the pronouncer.

Schmid, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Schmid, Jr. of Shavertown, now qualifies to compete in the Times Leader/Scripps Howard Luzerne County Re-



Joseph Schmid

gional Spelling Bee, scheduled for February 29 at The Dorothy Dickson Darte Center.

Elizabeth Wartella, a seventh-grade student and the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. John Wartella of Forty Fort, was the runner-up, followed by finalists Michael Kapolka and Katherine

Levandoski, both of Dallas.

Other students who participated in the finals included Jonathan Fendler of Shavertown, Kyla Halsor of Dallas, Ashley Pavill of Shavertown, Kenny Pollock of Dallas and Dominick Trombetta of Shavertown.

Wyoming Seminary Lower School eighth grader Joseph Schmid won Wyoming Seminary Lower School's spelling bee.

Casey Hampsey spells to victory

Casey Hampsey, 2003 GOH Spelling Bee Champ, emerged victorious once again at the annual bee, moderated by Mrs. Lynn Jones. Casey is a seventh grade student; students in grades six to eight, ages 12 to 15, are eligible to compete. The Gate of Heaven School winner will soon compete against students from Luzerne and Wyoming counties in the Regional Spelling Bee. The winner will advance to the National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C.

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RESEARCH MATTERS

by
Dr. David J.
Madeira



"How Safe Is Your Painkiller?"

Previously in this column I have reported on how scientific studies have demonstrated that NSAIDs, even when used correctly, can cause stomach bleeding, kidney damage, and even death. Now the FDA is putting the focus on the popular drug acetaminophen.

More than 56,000 emergency room visits a year are due to acetaminophen overdoses, and about 100 people a year die after unintentionally taking too much, according to Food and Drug Administration (news - web sites) estimates.

Some consumers swallow extra pills in hopes of faster relief. Others unknowingly ingest too much by taking more than one acetaminophen-containing remedy.

Best known by the Tylenol brand, acetaminophen is present in more than 600 products that treat pain, coughs, colds, flu. Most are nonprescription, but there are some prescription ones, such as Vicodin. Often the ingredient is listed only in the label's fine print or, for prescription drugs, with the confusing abbreviation APAP.

But the FDA's new campaign falls short of recommendations of its own scientific advisers, who in 2002 urged that warnings be placed directly on the labels of over-the-counter painkillers to ensure users know these risks.

"I'm a little angry" at the small effort, said Kate Trunk of Fort Myers, Fla., who has urged the FDA for three years to increase acetaminophen warnings after her 23-year old son died from an unintentional overdose after a wrist injury.

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<http://www.fda.gov/cder/drug/analgesics/SciencePaper.htm>



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