

# BATTLES

Continued from Page 1

sure of how he got there. He spent a month in the military hospital, followed by eight months of rehabilitation in Colorado.

While recuperating, Mushinski was told he had initially been evacuated to a combat support hospital for treatment before being transferred to medical facilities in Baghdad, Kuwait City and Germany.

"I was on morphine and strapped to a stretcher," Mushinski said. "I don't remember much."

Hard work got him back on his feet and his status as a "hero" helped get his life back on track. Even though he was medically discharged, Mushinski still had a longing to serve his country for at least 20 years.

"I wanted to continue to help the warfighter," he said.

Mushinski was invited to attend a conference sponsored by the Coalition to Salute America's Heroes in the fall 2004. The coalition was created to provide an easy and meaningful way for individuals, corporations and others to help severely wounded and disabled veterans and their families rebuild their lives.

"My husband was told he'd never walk again after Iraq," said Mushinski's wife, Natasha. "Attending the coalition was bitter-sweet. It reminded us of what was once our destiny."

While attending the event, the

couple met representatives from Tobyhanna who offered Mushinski the chance to put his Army skills to work. Tobyhanna repairs and overhauls most of the equipment Mushinski used on the battlefield.

As the only quality assurance specialist in communications systems, he's responsible for making sure employees have the proper manuals and test equipment to do the job. Mushinski also checks processes to ensure employees are using the most efficient methods to get systems to where they're needed.

Mushinski grew up in Houston and Natasha was raised in California. Neither had traveled north of Tennessee and knew little of northeastern Pennsylvania.

"I wanted to know where the malls were and (we wanted) a safe place to live," Natasha said. Two days after arriving in the area, Natasha found out she was pregnant with the couple's first child.

"The hardest things about moving have been making friends our age and leaving family behind," she said. "But overall, I'm glad we decided to move to (the area). It seems the depot and the local area has a lot to offer the soldiers after their military careers."

Her husband agreed. And as a disabled veteran, Mushinski says he's finally found an equally rewarding way to serve his country.

"I just fell in love with the place," he said. "It instinctively felt right. Working here keeps me close to the lifestyle to which I'm accustomed."

# SERVICE

Continued from Page 1

tendance was held after the service.

"I think this service was more upbeat than those we had in the past that were more like memorials," said Scheff, a resident of Ricketts Glen. "None of us look

for gratitude. This profession is a calling, not a job."

Jill Shaw, an emergency medical technician for Lake Silkworth, Fairmont Township, Jackson Township and Sweet Valley, thought the service was very nice.

"I became an EMT about three years ago because I was just looking for something to do, and here I am," she said.

## 8 DAYS A WEEK

**Oct. 2 - FAMILY OF SURVIVORS PROGRAM**, 10:30 a.m. at Cancer Survivors Park, McDade Park, in Scranton. The fifth annual event is sponsored by the Northeast Regional Cancer Institute. Anyone who has been affected by cancer is invited. For more information or to register for the program, call the institute at 970-6543.

**Oct. 8 - SEED OF ABRAHAM TOY RUN**, 11 a.m. at the Back Mountain Harvest Assembly Church on Carverton Road in Trucksville. The public is encouraged to bring a new toy to the third annual event, which benefits the Cross Walks Mobile Children's Ministry. For more information, call Brad Edwards at 696-9513 or Guy Giordano at 388-2513. Entertainment will be provided by the "Victory in Heaven" blues band.

**Oct. 8 - DINNER AND LIVE AUCTION**, at 8 p.m. at the Westmoreland Club in Wilkes-Barre. The event is being held by the Luzerne County Historical Society as a kickoff to its Appraisal Day on Oct. 9. Tickets are \$100 per person, and \$175 per couple. For more information, call the Luzerne County Historical Society at 823-6244, or visit the Web site [www.luzernecountyhistory.com](http://www.luzernecountyhistory.com).

**Oct. 9 - APPRAISAL DAY**, from 1-5 p.m. in the Wilkes University Amdud C. Marts Center, 274 South

Franklin Street, Wilkes-Barre. The event is being sponsored by the Luzerne County Historical Society and the appraisals will be conducted by Freeman's, the oldest auction house in the nation. There is no admission charge. Freeman's Auction House will have professional appraisers on site to assess values on paintings, prints, sculpture, books, manuscripts, jewelry, silver, Americana, and 20th century design. The first appraisal will be conducted at \$20, and the second and third appraisal at \$10 each.

**Oct. 14 - TELLING OF GHOST STORIES**, at 7 p.m. at Frances Slocum State Park in King-

ston Township. The event is sponsored by the Voices of the Valley storytelling group. Anyone who attends must bring their own seating and a \$1 donation to benefit the Osterhout Free Library in Kingston. For more information, call 954-1326.

**Oct. 14-15 - A JOHN WILLIAMS CELEBRATION**, at 8 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 14 at the F.M. Kirby Center in Wilkes-Barre and at 8 p.m. Sunday Oct. 15 at the Scranton Cultural Center in Scranton. Tickets for the performances range from \$18.00 through \$55.00. Student tickets are half-price. Reservations are suggested and are available through the Philharmonic ticket hot line at 457-8301. For more information, visit the Philharmonic online at [www.nepaphil.org](http://www.nepaphil.org). **Oct. 16 - ALL-DAY BINGO**, doors open at noon and early-birds begin at 1:30 p.m. at the Northmoreland Township Volunteer Fire Co. on Demunds Road in Center Moreland. Dinner and refreshments will be provided to all players. For reservations, call 333-4909. Walk-ins are also welcome.

**Oct. 15 - PUMPKIN PALOOZA**, from 4-6 p.m. at Frances Slocum State Park in Kingston Township. Children will be able to choose a pumpkin to paint, play pumpkin games, enjoy a pumpkin treat, get their faces painted, and more. A \$5 donation is requested. For more information, call 696-9105.

**Oct. 22 - HOME-STYLE SPAGHETTI DINNER**, from 5-7 p.m. at Gate of Heaven Church, Machell Avenue in Dallas. Takeouts will begin at 4:30 p.m. The dinner includes spaghetti with marinara sauce, homemade meatballs, salad, Italian bread, beverage and choice of dessert. Dinners are \$7 for adults and \$3.50 for children ages 6-12. There is no charge for children under 6 years old. There are a limited number of dinners. For reservations or more information, call 675-2696.

**Oct. 22 - CHICKEN AND BISCUIT DINNER**, from 5-7 p.m. at Trinity Presbyterian Church, 105 Irem Road in Dallas. Takeouts will be available from 4:30-5 p.m. The cost is \$7 for adults and \$4 for children 5-12. For more informa-

## How to get your listings published

Calendar items are published free of charge. Generally, items will appear the two weeks prior to an event. The best way to submit material is by e-mail, to [thepost@leader.net](mailto:thepost@leader.net). You may also send it to The Post, 15 N. Main St., Wilkes-Barre, PA, 18711, or drop it in the box at Uni-Mart, Rt. 309, Dallas. Deadline is Tuesday at 5 p.m.

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tion, call 675-3131.

**Through Oct. 9 - ART EXHIBIT**, Lizza Studios, 155 Bridge Street in Tunkhannock. The exhibit Talking Hearts will feature the work of Marylou Chibirka. A Meet the Artist reception will be held from 2-5 p.m. Aug. 28. For more information, call 836-8806.

**Through Oct. 13 - 2005 FALL FILM FESTIVAL**, at the Dietrich Theater in Tunkhannock. For festival movies and show times, visit [www.dietrichtheater.com](http://www.dietrichtheater.com). The theater will present 14 days of 14 foreign, independent, and art films. For festival information, call 996-1500.

**Through Oct. 30 - YOGA AT**

NIGHT, from 7-8 p.m. every Monday. Accommodations will be made for beginners, experienced practitioners, and those with special needs. Bring a yoga mat or beach towel. The cost is \$10 per class. To confirm dates, call 996-1500. The instructor is Mary Frances Godano, certified Hatha yoga instructor.

**ONGOING - WRITERS GROUP**, 7-8:30 p.m. every Thursday at the Dietrich Theater in Tunkhannock. Love to write? Join the writers group, which celebrates all different types of writing styles and formats. Join any time. Admission is free. To register, call 996-1500.

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## COSGROVE RECEIVES 40-YEAR PIN

The Beta Sigma Chapter of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International recently honored Marjorie Cosgrove with a 40-year pin for her more than 40 years of membership. Virginia Marchakitus was also honored for her longtime membership. Attending the ceremony, from left are Marchakitus, treasurer Alice Hudak and Cosgrove.



# VISITATION DAY

## VISITATION DAY

### Columbus Day, October 10

Students and parents: you are invited to visit our Lower or Upper Schools.

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