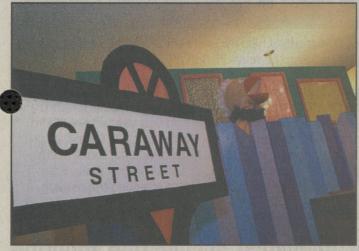
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SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF THE DALLAS AND LAKE-LEHMAN SCHOOL DISTRICTS

## Caraway Street is a popular event at Dallas Baptist



FOR THE POST/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

The Caraway Street teaches life lessons to children in kindergarten through fourth grade.

# Area kids get into the act

By DAVE KONOPKI Post Editor

DALLAS - The Rev. Jerry branch cringed when he heard about the new children's ministry being considered by the church where he was preparing to take over the pastoral du-

"I thought, 'oh no, not another puppet program," said Branch, pastor of the Dallas Baptist Church on Route 415. "I was very skeptical, but they were excited about it. So, I met with the creator (Ron Solomon of Texas) and learned more The Dallas Baptist Church's about the program.

"Puppets can be really bor- is held at 6:30 p.m. each g. This isn't.

The program, Caraway Street Theater, is designed to teach young children how to develop life skills on a biblical basis, said Branch.

The interactive program for children in kindergarten through fourth grade is held at 6:30 p.m. each Wednesday at the church.

the children some aspect of living the Christian life," said director Melba Boudreaux, a longtime church member who the end of May we had about 40 first learned about the Cara- kids. It's been very successful way Street program at a chil- in reaching young people." dren's camp.

school. The kids learn morals minute show. and lessons they can take with them to school. They're not have started coming to church just sitting there and listening. because of the program, Bouand the actors. We have so much fun."

And it's been successful. Despite competing with a Caraway Street program has come here." grown since it was introduced to the church in March.

The program has three semesters a year, much like a school calendar.



Stage puppets like these are regular characters at Caraway Street at the Dallas Baptist

### ♦ IF YOU GO

Caraway Street Theater program grades kindergarten through fourth grade. There is no admission charge. For more information, call the church at 639-

Each semester lasts nine weeks and the current one runs through Dec. 14.

"When we started the pro-"Each week, we try to teach gram, we had one child in the (kindergarten through fourth grade) age group," said Branch. "From March through

And their parents, who "For example, we might do sometimes sit in the back of the something about cheating in church and enjoy the 1 hour, 15

Although several families They interact with the puppets dreaux made it clear the goal wasn't to lure visiting children or their families away from other churches.

"We tell the kids that if you plethora of youth sports, video attend a different church, go games, and dozens of televi- there," she said. "If you don't sion channels, interest in the attend a church, you're wel-

> Shannon Redmond and her family moved to the Wyoming Valley from North Carolina al-

> > a scarecrow in Noxen.

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"The support I've gotten from my family, my girlfriend, and friends has been great. It's been extremely tough on my parents. They feel helpless."

- Chris Crawford

# Needing a miracle



PHOTOS FOR THE POST/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Chris Crawford spends some time with the family dog, Odie.

### IF YOU CAN HELP

If you would like more information about donating a kidney, contact the National Kidney Foundation at www.kidney.org or call Crawford at 570-814-9250.

## L-L graduate Chris Crawford needs a kidney transplant

By DAVE KONOPKI Post Editor

OSS TOWNSHIP - Chris Crawford doesn't feel sor-L Ury for himself. He doesn't want to. And, to be quite honest, he doesn't have the time.

After all, while many young people his age are primarily focused on climbing the corporate ladder or spending time with friends, the Lake-Lehman High School graduate spends much of his time thinking about vastly different things.

Like renal failure. Dialysis treatments. Neck catheters.

And finding a new kidney.

The 24-year-old son of Leonard and Shirley Crawford is hoping to find a kidney donor – five months after an attempted transplant from his girlfriend failed.

"It's been tough, but I've never felt sorry for myself," said Crawford, who moved to Hackensack, N.J. to begin a new job as a field engineer.

"In fact, it gives me the drive to keep going. The support I've gotten from my family, my girlfriend, and friends has been great. It's been extremely tough on my parents. They feel help-

His girlfriend of more than five years, 23-year-old Jennifer Kocher, took a giant step toward trying to help Crawford in May. Kocher donated one of her kidneys to him, but the transplant failed in less than 24 hours.

"The kidney got a blood clot and died inside of me," said Crawford, who graduated from Lake-Lehman in 1999 and from Penn State/Wilkes-Barre two years ago. "My urine output stopped and I gained 20 pounds overnight. They took me right back into the operating room to re-

The failure defied the odds. Doctors had told Crawford approximately 99.8 percent of all

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TIMES LEADER STAFF PHOTO/FRAD ADAMS

Cindie Banks joins her daughter Katrina and son Dakota to make

# Pumpkin patch offers a weekend of fun

Hayrides, a corn maze and the chance to make a scarecrow add up to fun

> By GENELLE HOBAN Post Correspondent

and the chance to make your own scarecrow, the Whistle Pig Pumpkin Patch is a popular haystacks." stop for Back Mountain residents.

A Dallas family liked the ex- tan cornstalks.

perience so much last year, they

came back again this year. Julia, 3, took a hayride around cost them \$3 each. the patch on a bright and sunny

Sunday afternoon. NOXEN - With hayrides, a last year," Ted said as his daugh- through the patch filled with corn maze, plenty of pumpkins ter with white blonde hair and pumpkins and gourds. bright blue eyes sat on his lap. "Nick loves jumping off the various-shaped orange and

> Ted and Nicholas walked into sized pumpkin. a tiny opening between the tall

Finding the way through the 4-acre corn maze designed by Lisa and Ted Kocher and their Joel Field, owner of the patch, two children, Nicholas, 5, and wouldn't be easy. The attempt

Lisa and Julia, however, decided not to go through the "We had the best time here maze. Instead, they tromped

They finally settled on some green gourds and a medium-

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