

Happy Mother's Day!



THE POST

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

Stier family endures life's many challenges



Dallas Township resident Tammy Stier plays with her children Alex, 19 months, and Samantha, 7, before the start of a Little League game played by her 10-year-old son Joey.

PHOTOS FOR THE POST/JONATHAN J. JUKA

Babysitting course helps build confidence

Area youngsters learn the ropes during American Red Cross course

By GENELLE HOBAN
Post Correspondent

DALLAS – Finding a reliable babysitter could be a challenging chore for some parents. However, the Wyoming Valley Chapter of the American Red Cross hopes to ease some of their tensions with its babysitting course.

About a dozen enthusiastic adolescent girls sat around a table in the Back Mountain Memorial Library on a recent rainy afternoon, listening to the dos and don'ts of babysitting.

The girls learned about leadership, various professional skills and hygiene from Suzanne Youngblood, a Red Cross instructor.

"I hoped to learn how to take care of the children more properly and how to be more professional when I signed up for the course," said 12-year-old Kaylin Russell, of Trucksville.

The course helps area babysitters learn first aid, identify common safety hazards and perform basic care routines like changing diapers and feeding.

"It's hard to remember all of the things that kids can get into," said 11-year-old Kendra Vanesko, of Dallas. "We even learned how a child could drown in a toilet. I now know what to prevent them from doing and how to stop them from getting into dangerous things."

Youngblood explained to the girls how it is important for them to meet with the family prior to babysitting. She also explained that it is important for them to receive proper instructions, such as whom to contact in case of an emergency.

"I think for parents, knowing that the girls have taken the course, helps build their confidence," Youngblood said. "It's a great course to take if you want to baby-sit."

Throughout the afternoon,



TIMES LEADER STAFF PHOTOS/PET G. WILCOX

Babysitters take a course on infant care at the Back Mountain Memorial Library and organized by the American Red Cross of Wyoming Valley. Kaylin Russell dressed an infant doll as Dana Jolley looks on.

the girls did some role-playing activities with mannequins, practiced changing diapers, and talked about age-appropriate games to play with the children.

"I learned a lot about the things you should do even before you start babysitting," Shannon Brobst, 13, said. "As a babysitter you need to know the house rules, what the kids might be allergic to and what they are allowed to eat."

Youngblood also stressed the F.I.N.D. Model, which stands for figure out the problem, identify the solutions, name the pros and cons, and decide on the best choice.

"This is a model for all of the girls to keep in mind while caring for any child," she said.

Each participant in the course received an American Red Cross Babysitter's Training Handbook to keep for future reference.

For a schedule of future American Red Cross babysitting courses, call the Wyoming Valley Chapter of the American Red Cross' health and safety department at 823-7161.



Samantha Casto learns to resuscitate a baby using an infant doll and lightly blowing into the doll's nose and mouth.

A special kind of love

By DAVE KONOPKI
Post Editor

DALLAS TWP. – Despite an occasional detour or roadblock, Tammy Stier has enjoyed the road through married life – especially motherhood.

And not even a potential obstacle on the horizon has stopped her from looking forward to the rest of the journey.

The Stiers – Tammy, her husband of 11 years Joe, and children Joey, Samantha and Alex – are celebrating Mother's Day with hearts that are heavier than normal. Doctors recently found a tumor on Joe's brain and the 31-year-old will be seeing a specialist at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York City later this week.

"We know we're going to get through this," said Tammy Stier, 32. "We know it will be an interesting journey. I love being a wife and a mother. We're in this together as a family. I know everything will be just fine."

In August 2004, Stier was eight months pregnant with Alex when doctors found the tumor in the head of her husband. He had been suffering from severe headaches and nausea.

"He couldn't pick his head off the couch," recalled Stier. "The headache wouldn't go away. It really affected him. Joe's not the type

See MOTHER, Page 8



Members of the Stier family, from left, first row are Joey and Samantha. Second row: Tammy, Alex and Joe.

Art, science take the spotlight at Lake-Noxen

School holds its annual science fair and art show; quilt display a big attraction

Hundreds of people recently attended the annual Lake-Noxen Elementary School science fair and art/quilt show. All of the projects were done by students in kindergarten through sixth grade.

A quilt show under the direction of teacher Beth Chocallo featured more than 50 displays. In addition to work done by students, members of the school

staff and members of the community also brought in their work. Some of the blankets and pillows displayed by the students were created by their parents, grandparents and great-grandparents.

"It was a really nice display because of how many different things were brought into the school," said teacher's aide Rae Ann Hansell. "Overall, it was a very good night with a lot of interesting projects."

Students in third grade did class project under the direction of teachers Tracey Long, Susan

Young and Yvonne Casey. Teacher Shane Kupsky directed the art show and teacher Melinda Gaus was in charge of the science fair. Kindergarten students in the class of teacher Carrie Snell did a project about plants. The science and art projects were done by students in all grades.

Students from each class brought in items for a class theme basket. The baskets were sold through a raffle and the proceeds will be used to bring in a program about bees during the first week of June.



FOR THE POST/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Colleen McCoy enjoys trying out one of the science projects.

Inside The Post

10 Pages, 1 Section
Puzzles2
Only Yesterday.....4
Schools5
Civic news9
Sports7

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