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### THE MEADOWS RAISING MONEY FOR SPCA



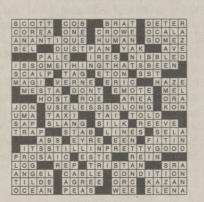
The Meadows Nursing Center is holding a "Pennies for Pets" campaign to raise funds for the SPCA of Luzerne County. Donating spare change will help the SPCA continue its mission of providing for the growing number of unwanted, neglected, and abused animals at the SPCA shelter in Plains Township. Canisters are located at The Meadows Nursing Center on West Center Hill Road in Dallas. You may drop off your pet's picture for display as you make a donation. You can also make a memorial contribution to a pet. Participating in the fundraiser, from left, first row are Tammy Jordan, SPCA educator, and Chloe; Ed Steltz and Wally; Tina Karl, therapy dog volunteer, and Abbey. Second row: Vince Sweeney, SPCA executive director, and Abby Rose; Cristina Tarbox, Meadows administrator; and Marilyn Gregorski, Meadows volunteer coordinator.

### PUZZLE ANSWERS

Puzzles, Page 2

King Crossword —     Answers Solution time: 21 mins.												
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— Prepared by the Times-Leader Advertising Department

## BOOKSFIRST! AND LOCAL REALTORS® HOLD SUCCESSFUL BOOK DRIVE: Realtors® Help Community Conquer Childhood Illiteracy



Shown in picture, left to right: Kevin Smith, President of the Greater Wilkes-Barre Association of REALTORS\*, Deborah G. Krohn, President-Elect Books/First Fund Drive Chairman and Terry Solomon, Director of the Greater Wilkes-Barre Association of REALTORS\* Books/First Fund Drive BooksFirst, in partnership with the Greater Wilkes-Barre Association of Realtors, recently held a book drive throughout the Greater Wyoming Valley that resulted in more than 1,000 books that will be distributed to students in impoverished areas of the Mississippi River Delta region.

The drive lasted nearly three weeks and involved more than 66 real estate offices and 500 real estate professionals throughout Luzerne County. All materials collected from the drive will be distributed to educators in the Mississippi River Delta region for their use in developing and enhancing their student's literary abilities, assisting their students in achieving significant gains in reading and reading comprehension, and closing the achievement gap between low-income students and their more affluent peers.

"The efforts of the Greater Wilkes-Barre Association of Realtors were unsurpassed," said BooksFirst Board Member John Krohn. "Their philanthropic spirit and commitment to provide for those less fortunate reflect the values that make our nation great."

The Mississippi River Delta Region is one of the worst performing regions in the nation academically. The area consists of northwestern portions of the State of Mississippi and the northeastern section of Arkansas. According to the 2004 Report Card on Education Mississippi is 50th in quality of education and Arkansas ranks 43rd. As of the 2000 Census, 43% of children living in Quitman County,

Mississippi are living in poverty. Eighty percent of students living in this typical Delta community qualify for free and reduced lunches.

"Today we were able to provide for those citizens less fortunate than ourselves," said John Krohn, a native of Dallas, Pa. "The Wyoming Valley is known as the 'Valley with a Heart' for a reason. The Greater Wilkes-Barre Association of Realtors was able to collect books for students who were recently affected by traumatic events and help make a difference in their education."

BooksFirst is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded in 2004 that seeks to collect and distribute high quality books to under-resourced class-rooms— enabling students to become lifelong readers by developing, enhancing, and enriching their literacy skills. The organization benefits schools in low socio-economic environments as statistics have shown that students from these schools are more than 65 percent less-likely to achieve a basic reading level on national reading assessments compared to students from affluent schools.

BooksFirstl: Helping Children Become Lifelong Readers For more information on BooksFirst, go to www.booksfirst.org.

## WYCALLIS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS HOLD COAT DRIVE



Students from Wycallis Elementary School recently joined students from Dallas High School for a coat drive to support the Commission of Economic Opportunity. The students at Wycallis Elementary collected more than 285coats and blankets, which were given to families in need throughout the area. Among the students who took part in the coat drive, from left, are Donald Michalisin, Joanna Wallace, Cassandra Cocco and Alyxandrea Mikolaichik.



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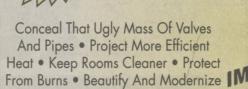
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Paula Ronjon, MD

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