

This librarian goes way beyond books to teach students about American history

By CAMILLE FIOTI
Dallas Post Correspondent

"This is like a museum," commented a second grader, as students entered the Wycallis Elementary School Library recently.

Handmade quilts of different sizes and styles were draped across tables and counters, hung along shelves and spread across the cushioned seats in the story time nook.

Assistant librarian Lois Noble recently shared a sampling of her vast collection with the children of Wycallis Elementary School during Quilt Week. Noble also shared her collection with the children of Dallas Elementary School where she also serves as assistant librarian.

Quilting has a rich American history and also traces back to ancient Egypt and China, the children learned. They heard stories such as "The Patchwork Path," a fictional account about how slaves, escaping along the Underground Railroad, depended on quilts to guide them to freedom. Hung on clotheslines and fences along the way, the quilt patterns had secret meanings, offering clues that only the slaves understood.

One of Noble's original designs, a colorful quilt of doors inspired by the movie, "Monsters Inc.," was a hit with the students. Another original, a crossword puzzle-themed quilt, was also a favorite. Noble taught the children about shapes and angles with her "scrappy" quilt sampler, chock full of triangles, squares and circles.

She explained the process of making quilts to the students by showing them the back side of a quilt top with its loose threads and seams. They learned that a quilt is

a fabric "sandwich," consisting of a top, a middle "filling" of batting and a back, all stitched together to form the finished product.

"It's not a quilt until it's quilted," she pointed out.

Students got to color their favorite quilt block designs such as log cabin, patchwork and broken dishes on coloring paper.

Noble began her craft 16 years ago when she and a group of moms whose children attended Trucksville Nursery School got together and stitched a quilt for charity. The proceeds from the raffled-off quilt went to a child with cancer. As an assistant teacher at the Wyoming Valley Montessori School, Noble helped students make a nature quilt. They collected leaves, coated them with colorful paints and pressed them into fabric. She also taught the students how to master a blanket stitch which they used to create a map of the world quilt. Both quilts were auctioned off for charity.

To date, Noble has made about 50 quilts, adding that some were made as group projects. One such project consisted of quilts she and three friends made to donate to Hurricane Katrina survivors.

"The most fun about quilting," Noble said, "is searching for the right fabric and finishing."

She particularly likes "art" quilts which are highly embellished with charms and decorative threads.

"You really can do anything," she said. "It's limitless."

Noble said that hand-stitched quilts can take a year or more to make, but machine-stitched ones can be finished in almost a week-end.

Noble has made quilts for all occasions from births to deaths. When a friend's husband passed



Lois Noble, a librarian at Wycallis Elementary School and also a quilter, explains quilting and techniques to fifth graders, from left, Marissa Rollman, Helen Nguyen, Tamara Davis and Amy Bolton.

CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK PHOTOS FOR THE DALLAS POST

away, the woman asked Noble if she would make her a memory quilt, using her husband's favorite shirts, jeans and even his Valentine's Day boxer shorts.

For her own daughter's baby shower, Noble sent blocks of fabric to family members who used crayon to draw pictures and wrote sentiments to her future granddaughter. Using paper towels and iron, Noble fused the messages of love onto the fabric and stitched them into a keepsake quilt for the baby.

"I felt like the fairy godmothers were endowing their gifts," she said.

She is currently working on a nautical themed quilt for her husband, an avid fisherman.

"He's finally getting a quilt," she said. "It's a 'one-step-at-a-time' process, like anything else."

Wycallis and Dallas librarian Louise Roberts came up with the idea of "Quilt Week" and selected the age-appropriate stories which were read to the children, Noble said.

"I thoroughly enjoyed sharing my hobby with the students," she said, adding that she hopes to make the event an annual tradition in both schools.



Lois Noble, a librarian at Wycallis Elementary School, is also a quilter. She sits here with a favorite children's theme "doors."

SHOW YOU CARE BY DONATING BLOOD



The Meadows Nursing Center, 55 W. Center Hill Rd., Dallas, will sponsor an American Red Cross blood drive from 1 to 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 22, in the center's All-Purpose Room, first floor. As a special "thank you," each donor will receive a special theme "Show You Care" snowman t-shirt and the Meadows Dietary Department will provide free homemade soup and rolls for all to enjoy. Donors must be at least 17 years of age, weigh at least 110 pounds and be in good health. First-time donors must have photo ID. Planning the event are, from left, Cristina Tarbox, Meadows administrator; blood drive volunteers Lloyd Ryman, Irene Transue, Pete Klein, Mary and Bob Law; and Molly Ramsey, director of American Red Cross Blood Services.

A SPECIAL HOLIDAY FOR SPECIAL KIDS



Everyone is smiling as George Creel and Gregory Allen, owners of the Really Cooking Café and Supper Club in Dallas, present proceeds of their fundraiser to representatives of the Luzerne County Foster Children's Program. From left, are Anthony Lumbis, Attorney for the Children and Youth Program; Sharon Lumbis, Gregory Allen and George Creel, owners of Really Cooking; Marjjo Sullivan, Supervisor of Foster Care; Frank Castano, director, Luzerne County Children and Youth Services.

George Creel and Gregory Allen, owners of the Really Cooking Café and Supper Club in Dallas, helped make a difference in the lives of the children in the Luzerne County Foster Children's Program this past Christmas by providing a Christmas party for them, reuniting siblings who hadn't seen each other for quite a while.

Creel and Allen created a lavish social event at their restaurant on November 13 as a fundraiser to pay for the party, asking each guest to donate \$50 to benefit the foster children's holiday party. At the end of the evening, more than \$8,000 was raised which allowed more than 500 people to attend the party at Genetti's in Wilkes-Barre on Sunday, Nov. 2.

SCHOOL BRIEFS

Wentzel passes radiography exam

Sharon Wentzel, of Harveys Lake, is one of 12 students who completed the medical imaging program at Misericordia University in December and passed the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) national certification exam in radiography.

The 100-percent pass rate of the class continues a 19-year tradition for the program which has routinely experienced higher pass rates than the national average. Since 1988, 279 Misericordia graduates have taken the ARRT examination and 266 have passed - a 95.34-percent pass rate, according to ARRT data. The program's students also achieved a 100-percent pass rate in 26 of the 35 test dates during the same period.

ARRT is the world's largest credentialing organization that seeks to ensure high quality patient care in radiologic technology, according to the agency's Web site. It tests and certifies technologists and adminis-

ters continuing education and ethics requirements for its annual registration.

Sem Music Dept. plans Winter Concert

The Wyoming Seminary Music Department will present its annual Winter Instrumental Concert at 4 p.m. today, Jan. 20, in the Great Hall, 228 Wyoming Ave., Kingston. The concert features the Wyoming Seminary Orchestra and several instrumental chamber ensembles and will include music by Bizet, Handel, Schubert, Debussy, Ravel and other composers.

The program is free and open to the public. For more information, call 270-2190.

Open House Week planned at school

Trucksville Nursery School will conduct Open House Week January 28 through February 1. The school is located in the William and Melba Dickson Educational Facility of the Trucksville United Methodist Church, Church Road, Trucks-

ville. Anyone wishing to tour the school is asked to call 696-3899 and make a reservation.

Flea market at MU supports volunteer efforts

A two-day flea market in February, sponsored by Misericordia University's Campus Ministry, will support the spring break volunteer efforts of students who are scheduled to travel to Alabama and California.

Campus Ministry is holding the flea market from noon to 4

p.m. on Friday, Feb. 1, and from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 2, in the Banks Student Life Center's Kennedy Lounge to offset the cost of the trips to Sacramento, Calif. and Birmingham, Ala. Students going to California will work with the Sisters of Mercy at Loaves and Fishes Ministry, a homeless outreach for Latino and Hispanic immigrants. In Alabama, students will work on local Habitat for Humanity projects.

The flea market is in need of vendors. To reserve flea market space or for more information, call

Campus Ministry at 674-6495.

Kindergarten Readiness Program slated

The Lake-Lehman School District has scheduled the second presentation of the Kindergarten Readiness Program for children planning to enter kindergarten next fall. The program will feature Math Readiness and an explanation of kindergarten registration.

Faculty from each building will conduct the presentation. The schedule is: Ross Elemen-

tary at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 5; Lake-Noxen Elementary at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 6; Lehman-Jackson Elementary at 9 a.m. on Thursday, Feb. 7.

Register for the second installment of the program by calling Ross Elementary at 477-5050 or 256-7897, Lake-Noxen Elementary at 639-1129 and Lehman-Jackson Elementary at 675-2165.

This program is only for children who will be 5 before September 1, 2008 and who are planning to enter kindergarten for the 2008-2009 school year.

PUZZLE ANSWERS

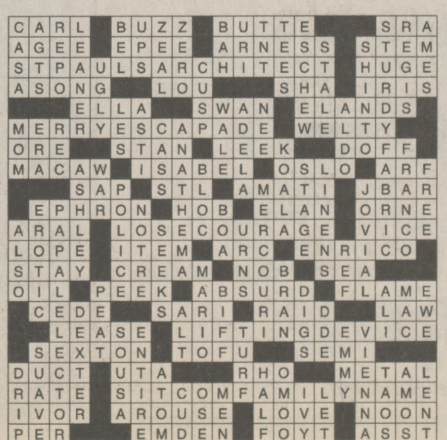
King Crossword

Answers
Solution time: 24 mins.
SCABS GRAMP
AMULET REBOOT
RETINA ACCRUE
EWES MAYA ERE
TOPS POL
DOE LEIS BLIP
UNITEDNATIONS
GENE EIRE SKI
SAM NANA
ROT AGES CAPS
ICEAXE OUTLET
CHIPIN TREATY
HONEST ANDRE

Go Figure!

answers

7	x	2	+	8	22
-		x	-		
1	+	4	+	6	11
x	÷		x		
3	+	8	+	9	20
18		1		18	



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