ROSS ELEMENTARY STUDENTS HONORED



Student of the Building for February at Ross Elementary School are, from left, first row, Ashley Herceg, Jacey Kleintob, Morgan Marchakitus, Shelby Traver, Eva Fine and Joshua Hinkley. Second row, Kacie Pashinski, teacher; Shannon Kreidler, teacher; Abigail Carr, Matthew Edkins, Marie Johns, Nikolas Antinnes, Shoshanna Mahoney, Lacey Miller, Rielly Sutliff and Donald James, principal. Absent at the time of the photo was Corey

SCOUTS HONORED AT TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Dylan Pilger and Tyler Evans, Boy Scouts from Dallas Troop 281, were recently recognized in a special ceremony during the Sunday worship service lead by Rev. Roger F. Griffith at their home chu Trinity Presbyterian Church in Dallas. Also present were scout leaders, Mrs. Mary Chappell and Mrs. Charla Pilger. Pileger and Evans, currently part of the confirmation class at Trinity, helped cook and serve pancakes at a recent church supper and participated in the Boy Scout food drive for the Back Mountain Food Pantry on March I. From left, are Rev. Roger Griffith, Charla Pilger, Dylan Pilger, Tyler Evans and Mary Chappell.

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said.

Being a doctor in the Army also meant Schlifka had to operate on enemy forces, as agreed upon in the Geneva Convention.

"You just sort of put the blinders on and do what you have to do," Schlifka said of those times. "It was a little unnerving and I tell you that it's very impressive, the level of discipline that our medics in the field have. You're in a firefight, your guys are getting killed and now all of a sudden, you're saving the lives of the guys that are shooting at you."

In fact, 70 percent of the operations Schlifka performed were not on Americans, but on Iraqi women and children, coalition forces and insurgents. In addition to the children Schlifka saw in the ICU when he first arrived in Iraq, he performed successful surgery on a 3-month-old girl to remove shrapnel from her brain. An 8-year-old Iraqi boy who was taken to Balad Hospital after a massive rock fell off a building and struck him was not so lucky as Schlifka was unable to save

Working in a hospital did not necessarily mean Schlifka was out of harm's way as the hospital was often mortared and enemies tried to run down the gate several times. When air attack alarms sounded, indicating everyone should take cover, Schlifka continued to operate.

The way medical personnel worked together and the fast pace they kept were impressive to this U.S. doctor, indicating that teamwork is an integral part of the 96 percent survival rate in a combat zone.

"If I operated on a guy at 9 o'clock at night, if he was stable, 2 o'clock in the morning he'd be Landstuhl, Germany," Schlifka on the Wilkes-Barre area.



Members of the 207th Head and Neck Team at Balad Military Hospital in Iraq include Lehman Township resident Dr. Brett Schlifka, standing the farthest back. Dr. Hans Bakken, far right in the first row, was Schlifka's second partner in neurosurgery in

said. "And then a day or so there (Army Medical Center in Wash- (store) nearby," Schlifka joked.

neurosurgical standpoint, it's a wonderful place to be because of the people that you work with Tacoma, Wash. He did a utiliza-and the efficiencies," Schlifka tion tour for two years as a flight added. "It was the pinnacle of my medical career."

lissa, moved to Lehman Town- ther train in neurosurgery. ship with their daughter, Tatiana, neurosurgeon at Geisinger in Plains Township and Geisinger South Wilkes-Barre. He is

brain, spine and trauma surgery. Originally from Skokie, Ill., Pennsylvania while he trained in Philadelphia and rotated at Geisinger Medical Center in Danville. He was impressed by the hospital cars. and the people here and wanted His wife felt Danville was too ruloaded on a C-130 and flown to ral, so the couple compromised

"I think her preference was and he'd be back at Walter Reed that there had to be a Target

As a medical student, Schlifka "Aside from the distance and studied cardiothoracic surgery. being in a combat zone, from a But he was drawn into neurosurgery during his internship at Madigan Army Medical Center in surgeon in Korea with an apache helicopter brigade and then re-Schlifka, 37, and his wife, Me-ceived a civilian deferment to fur-

While he was in Iraq and not who is now 9 months old, last fall working, Schlifka was sleeping, when he was named an associate eating or working out in the gym. His goal was to be able to bench Wyoming Valley Medical Center press 400 pounds before he came home. He made it to 385 pounds.

Upon returning to the United board certified and specializes in States, Schlifka was the assistant chief and temporary chief of neurosurgery at Madigan Army Med-Schlifka became familiar with ical Center before coming to Geisinger Wyoming Valley. In his free time, he enjoys working around the house and rebuilding

Although Schlifka was disto move back to the East Coast. charged from the military in October, he does not rule out the possibility of re-enlisting in a few

Lynda Hunter, of Dallas, creates homemade memory quilts as a way to memorialize deceased loved ones. They can also honor a living person or even a beloved pet, like the one shown here.

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Making her first memory quilt was not an emotionally easy task. Although an average-size quilt takes about 20 hours to produce, it took her much longer to make her own.

"I tried for almost a week straight to do this, and I would start it ... and have to stop," Hunter said. "A couple of times I would be cutting this stuff out

Hunter made several for family members. One day, she took a quilt to a grief support group of which she was a member and it was a hit. Before she knew it, other members of the group were bringing in clothing of the people they lost so they could have quilts of their own made.

Though she had no intention to sew quilts for profit, Hunter realized there is a great demand for them and hopes the quilts bring the same comfort she felt from her own to others.

It takes about four articles of of her dog. and would be crying so hard. clothing to make a memory And then everything fell into quilt. Almost any type of cloth- mother by cutting out fabric, place and I found more comfort ing can be used, but Hunter rec- Hunter is the only person who doing it than anything else. Just ommends people submit all works on quilts and clothes for knowing that I could wrap my- washable or all dry-clean-only her business, with everything self up in this any time I am feel- clothes so the quilt can be sewn by machine in her baseing really bad brought comfort." cleaned. Quilts can be made ment workshop.

After finishing her initial quilt, from three patterns or a solid color, which requires more clothing. Quilt sizes offered are twin, full, queen, king, lap and wall hanging and every quilt is backed with fleece.

Photos are another special aspect of the quilts. If desired, a photo can be printed directly onto fabric and sewed into the

Memory quilts are not just for deceased people but can be used to honor a living person or even a beloved pet. One woman had a quilt made that included a photo

Although Jennifer helps her

Puzzles, Page 2

American Red Cross sponsors two blood drives during April

The American Red Cross will unit will be at this drive. conduct two blood drives in the Back Mountain during the month of April.

to 6 p.m. on Monday, April 7.

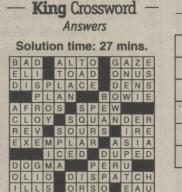
from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on

The Red Cross requests that all donors bring identification and their Red Cross Blood card. First-The bi-monthly drive at Irem time donors will receive a card af-Country Club will be held from 1 ter their first donation. Anyone 17 years of age, weighing a mini-Misericordia University will mum of 110 pounds and in good

A pre-scheduled appointment

Missing the

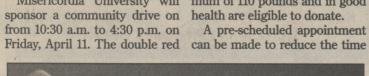
needed for donating by calling 823-7164, extension 2150.



PUZZLE ANSWERS





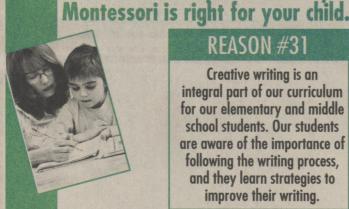




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