

## 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 Kinney.

## 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 led by Rev. Roger F. Griffith at their home church, Trinity Presbyterian Church in Dallas. Also present were scout leaders, Mrs. Mary Chappell and Mrs. Charla Pilger. Pilger 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 1. From left, are Rev. Roger Griffith, Charla Pilger, Dylan Pilger, Tyler Evans and Mary Chappell.

## WARTIMES

Continued from Page 1

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 fire-fight, 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 him.

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 loaded on a C-130 and flown to Landstuhl, Germany," Schlifka



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 Iraq.

said. "And then a day or so there and he'd be back at Walter Reed (Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C.)."

"Aside from the distance and being in a combat zone, from a neurosurgical standpoint, it's a wonderful place to be because of the people that you work with and the efficiencies," Schlifka added. "It was the pinnacle of my medical career."

Schlifka, 37, and his wife, Melissa, moved to Lehman Township with their daughter, Tatiana, who is now 9 months old, last fall when he was named an associate neurosurgeon at Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center in Plains Township and Geisinger South Wilkes-Barre. He is board certified and specializes in brain, spine and trauma surgery.

Originally from Skokie, Ill., Schlifka became familiar with Pennsylvania while he trained in Philadelphia and rotated at Geisinger Medical Center in Danville. He was impressed by the hospital and the people here and wanted to move back to the East Coast. His wife felt Danville was too rural, so the couple compromised on the Wilkes-Barre area.

"I think her preference was that there had to be a Target (store) nearby," Schlifka joked.

As a medical student, Schlifka studied cardiothoracic surgery. But he was drawn into neurosurgery during his internship at Madigan Army Medical Center in Tacoma, Wash. He did a utilization tour for two years as a flight surgeon in Korea with an apache helicopter brigade and then received a civilian deferment to further train in neurosurgery.

While he was in Iraq and not working, Schlifka was sleeping, eating or working out in the gym. His goal was to be able to bench press 400 pounds before he came home. He made it to 385 pounds.

Upon returning to the United States, Schlifka was the assistant chief and temporary chief of neurosurgery at Madigan Army Medical Center before coming to Geisinger Wyoming Valley. In his free time, he enjoys working around the house and rebuilding cars.

Although Schlifka was discharged from the military in October, he does not rule out the possibility of re-enlisting in a few years.



CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK/FOR THE DALLAS POST

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.

## MEMORIES

Continued from Page 1

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 and would be crying so hard. And then everything fell into place and I found more comfort doing it than anything else. Just knowing that I could wrap myself up in this any time I am feeling really bad brought comfort."

After finishing her initial quilt, 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 clothing to make a memory quilt. Almost any type of clothing can be used, but Hunter recommends people submit all washable or all dry-clean-only clothes so the quilt can be cleaned. Quilts can be made

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 quilt.

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 of her dog.

Although Jennifer helps her mother by cutting out fabric, Hunter is the only person who works on quilts and clothes for her business, with everything sewn by machine in her basement workshop.

## PUZZLE ANSWERS

Puzzles, Page 2

### King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 27 mins.

BAD	ALTO	GAZE
ELI	TOAD	ONUS
DISPLACE	DENS	
PLAN	BOWIE	
AFROS	SPEW	
CLOY	SQUANDER	
REV	SOURS	IRE
EXEMPLAR	ASIA	
ICED	DUPED	
DOGMA	PERU	
OLIO	DISPATCH	
ILLS	ORSO	EAU
TATA	WATT	DRT

### Go Figure!

answers

7	x	3	-	1	20
+		+		+	
8	+	6	÷	2	7
÷		+		+	
5	-	1	x	4	16
3		10		7	

PETE	AIDA	RADAR	OGLED
ACHY	SNAG	AGILE	PAOLO
THEEMPEROR	JONES	TRIMS	
HOYLE	ZERO	CUB	FREE
ETO	ALIAS	LACIER	
WESTERNS	LARA	TALE	
OVO	FOOT	GIN	ALANA
KINGOF	THEROAD	LORD	JIM
SCARP	ONA	SPIRE	ACE
TRIADS	OMIT	DEF	EXES
THEAFRICAN	QUEEN		
POPS	RBI	SELA	TOLLED
OLE	DELTA	OAR	AARON
SIRDUKE	PRINCE	VALTANT	
HOURS	RAN	PEAL	SOW
ITIS	ITCH	FLAUBERT	
ENZYME	LEHAR	SSE	
GRAZ	PET	ZETA	SWORD
ENOLA	PRINCE	SSGARABOO	
TIMER	EERIE	EARP	REAP
SEISM	DEANE	TRET	EYRE

## American Red Cross sponsors two blood drives during April

The American Red Cross will conduct two blood drives in the Back Mountain during the month of April.

The bi-monthly drive at Irem Country Club will be held from 1 to 6 p.m. on Monday, April 7.

Misericordia University will sponsor a community drive on from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Friday, April 11. The double red

unit will be at this drive.

The Red Cross requests that all donors bring identification and their Red Cross Blood card. First-time donors will receive a card after their first donation. Anyone 17 years of age, weighing a minimum of 110 pounds and in good health are eligible to donate.

A pre-scheduled appointment can be made to reduce the time

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

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