

SAFE

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shick's television reports on his findings.

Mehalshick reminded the children never to go with anyone they do not know. He suggested they develop a code word with their parents that can be used if someone else has to pick them up and to scream words such as "fire" and "water" if a stranger gets too close.

"If you don't know, don't go," Mehalshick said.

Tammy Jordan, education and volunteer coordinator for the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals of Luzerne County, brought her dog, a Pug named Chloe, to demonstrate the proper ways to pet a dog and talk about dog safety. Jordan was bitten multiple times in the face by her babysitter's dog when she was 8 years old.

"The reason why Chloe and I came out to talk to you is because I never want another child to be bitten," Jordan said to the students.

Jordan instructed the children to always ask for an owner's permission before petting his or her dog. She told them to pet the

dog's back and to never cover the dog's eyes or pull its ears or tail. She also explained the rock and tree methods, the best body positions to get into if being attacked by a dog.

The rock position, however, sometimes results in having a male dog lift his leg and urinate on the person, Jordan warned. She received a roomful of "Eeew!" in response.

Following Chloe, a German Shepherd named Macko hesitantly walked into the gym as he was led by Brian Feeney of the Dallas Township Police Department. The explosives dog from the Slovak Republic was afraid to walk on the gym floor because of its slippery surface.

Feeney placed three boxes on the floor, one of which contained a compound commonly used in bombs. Macko easily determined the third box was the one with the compound and sat next to it until Feeney rewarded him with tug of war with a white towel.

Macko is used about 12 times a year and has been put to work at the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton International Airport, Dallas High School, the Luzerne County Courthouse and other places, as well as on searches for guns.

At the end of the program, the students were ushered out to

the side yard of the school near the playground. Pennsylvania State Police Trooper Martin Connors set up a rollover simulator to show the children the difference wearing a seatbelt makes when a car rolls over in a crash.

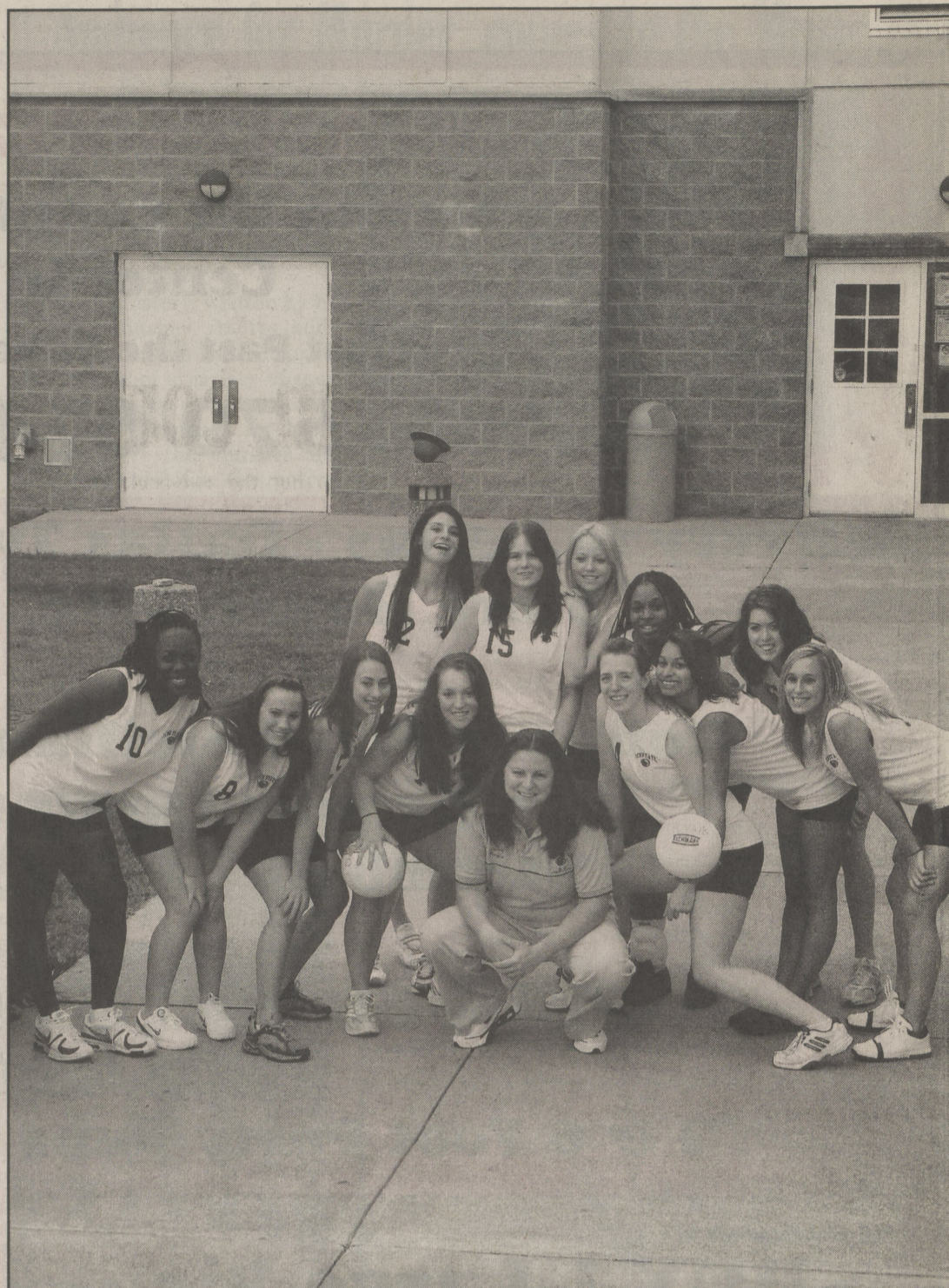
Three dummies - one adult, one child and one toddler - strapped into the car remained in place as the car rotated upside down repeatedly. But after Connors unbuckled the dummies' seatbelts, the adult driver came crashing down onto the ground.

"I don't want you picturing those dummies up there," Connors said. "I want you to picture mom, dad, a baby brother or sister or a cousin - someone you love."

Many of the children took Connor's advice and thought about what would happen if family members were in the car. Kady Mamola, fourth-grade, felt sad after she envisioned her little sister Peyton in the car.

Second-grader Dylan Hakim pictured not only his dad and sister in the car, but how his mom would feel if she witnessed it.

"I thought that was my dad and my baby sister getting choked and pretended my mom was sitting beside the car with her mouth wide open," Hakim said.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Funds will be raised for breast cancer during "Dig Pink" at the Penn State Wilkes-Barre vs. Penn State Abington women's volleyball game at 7 p.m. on Oct. 9 at Penn State Wilkes-Barre. Members of the Penn State Wilkes-Barre women's volleyball Tteam are, from left, first row, Sierrah Henderson, Mariah Syracki, Mandy Imburgio, Lydia Naperkawski, Coach Regan Palfe, Kelsey Blondo, Leanise Rodriguez and Corrine Monick. Second row, Krissy Gannon, Sierra Simonton, Mistie Charney, Terrysha Lewis and Allie McCarthy-Ramsey. Absent at the time of the photo was Mallory Trojan.



Lynne Hagan, left, serves Joan L. Krause, left, and Susan Elczyna at the 2007 Fork & the Cork event at Misericordia.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

EVENT

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country.

The event will also contain food from local gourmet restaurants including Café Olivia, CuVenee, Harry and Billy's, River Street Ale House, 31 Lake Street, Bakehouse, Fire and Ice and Wolfgang Puck Express.

Tickets are \$85 each. A VIP Grand Cru Tasting is also

available from 1 to 5 p.m. For \$135, VIP tickets grant access to the VIP lounge, where ticket holders can hear Jimmy Mancuse while also sampling Grand Cru wines, caviar, champagne and more.

Four food and wine seminars will also be held on October 11. "The Language of Wine" and "The Perfect Cup" will be held at 11 a.m. and "The Love Affair with Triple Crème" and "Amore - An Adventure in Italian Food and Wine" will be held at noon.

The seminars will be held in the third floor Catherine Evans McGowan Room of the Mary Kintz Bevevino Library and in Mercy Hall, rooms 200, 230 and 232. A wine seminar ticket, good for admission to two seminars, is \$40.

A weekend pass for \$300, which gains entry to all Fork & the Cork events, is also available.

To purchase tickets, go to www.forkandthecork.com or call 602-3800, ext. 238.

CANCER

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cancer will also be available.

Members of the Dallas High School Chorus, directed by Palfe's sister, Cassie, and Jennifer Hunter, will sing the national anthem before the start of the volleyball game.

Everyone present is encouraged to wear pink. Team members will wear Dig Pink shirts during warm-up and pink ribbons in their hair. The women are

even considering getting tiedyed pink and white shorts.

The team plans to honor breast cancer survivors in attendance with purple flowers. Purple is the color associated with all cancer survivors.

"I really hope breast cancer survivors show up," Palfe said. "I want to honor them somehow, at least to stand up in the beginning. When we announce the players' names in the beginning, we will have them give out purple flowers to the survivors."

In addition to being the women's volleyball coach at Penn State Wilkes-Barre, Palfe is a

third-grade teacher at Dallas Elementary School. She has been a participant the last three years in the American Cancer Society's Back Mountain Relay for Life.

Anyone who wishes to donate to Side-Out but cannot attend the event may send a check or money order to: The Side-Out Foundation, P.O. Box 884, Annandale, VA 22003. Please reference the team name on the memo/for line of the check or in a note with the check.

Donations can also be made online at www.sideoutvolleyball.org/mainevent/minievent/PennStat/.

WOMEN

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saw so many single mothers struggling to make it through college.

Austin says the need for a college program for single moms in northeastern Pennsylvania is evident based on the two to three inquiries she receives from women every week, most of whom are residents of the area.

Single mothers accepted into the university are eligible for the Women with Children Program. They cannot have an undergraduate degree, although they are allowed to have an associate's degree. The women also must be the primary custodial parent and may have no more than two children between the ages of 2 when the mother begins classes and no older than 12 upon her graduation.

Rosary Hall, a former convent, is a three-story building with plenty of bedrooms. Each woman in the home receives two bedrooms for her family and shares common areas including a kitchen, living room, dining room, playroom, computer lab and library. The women may prepare their own meals inside of the home or opt to purchase a meal plan for the university's dining hall. Their children are allowed unlimited free on-campus meals.

Other benefits of the Women with Children Program include lessons on budgeting money, specialized peer and professional tutoring, career development and two mentors

- one from the campus community and one from the advisory committee. The women also attend several workshops per semester with topics such as positive parenting, child development milestones, community living skills, self esteem enhancement and communication skills.

During the day while the moms are in class, children go to nearby day care centers or attend Dallas schools. Those

in the program who financially qualify can receive day care subsidized up to 40 percent by Misericordia.

"I think one of the biggest benefits for them is living in a community with people with similar goals," Austin said. "The greatest benefit is also the biggest challenge - living with five other moms."

Austin points out the children also get to see a college campus and the benefits of a college education.

Mullen, a senior majoring in secondary education with minors in chemistry and psychology, has been living in Rosary Hall with 9-year-old Jacob since February 2006.

The 29-year-old former Nanticoke resident heard about Misericordia's Women with Children Program from co-workers at Bed Bath and Beyond who attended the university.

Intrigued by the program, Mullen called to inquire and was told there was a three and

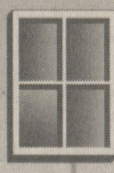
a half year wait. Determined to continue her education, Mullen enrolled at Misericordia anyway in the fall 2005.

When two bedrooms in the house opened up in January of the next year, Mullen was offered them. She moved in the beginning of February 2006, transferring Jacob from Nanticoke to Dallas area schools.

Mullen says she's been fully accepted by the traditional college students, who are seven to 11 years younger than

she. When she was nominated for Misericordia's 2008 homecoming court, her roommates ordered pizza and baked a cake in celebration.

"The biggest thing the program has given me is it's allowed me to have the college experience," Mullen said. "I've been able to experience a lot and do things on campus. It's enabled Jake to do things on a college campus because there are not many things I go to where I don't bring him."



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