

HEROES

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ups on the workers and treat chronic ailments and diseases.

"The students are always a challenge for me and that's why I love them," Fuller said. "They're always challenging me to actually learn more myself."

Fuller, 66, grew up in a small town in Vermont and attended an elementary school with four rooms for eight grades. She earned her bachelor's degree in nursing from the University of Vermont in 1965. She met her husband, Richard, while in college and the two married, moving to the area when he got a job teaching art at Wilkes College.

The couple's Forty Fort home was demolished by the Agnes Flood in 1972, causing them to relocate to the Back Mountain. From 1973 to 1974, they served as missionaries at Schutz American School in Alexandria, Egypt where Fuller was the school nurse and her husband taught art.

Fuller obtained a master's degree in nursing from the State University of New York at Binghamton in 1980. In 1996, she and Robin Gallagher started Women to Women, Inc. in Kingston. The nurse practitioner-owned independent practice provides gynecological care to women, including free services to income-eligible women.

The nurse practitioners also provide care for students at Wilkes University, and prisoners at the Luzerne County Correctional Facility and the PA Child

Care juvenile detention facility. "I think one of the very rewarding things for me is seeing people who need health care who can't afford it and can get it," Fuller said. "That makes me feel so good."

In 2002, Fuller received a Ph.D. in nursing research and theory from New York University in 2002. She is the proud mother of Rick, 42, and Lori Chance, 39.

"I was very humbled because I feel in particular that's what nurse practitioners do," Fuller said of being selected as a Health Care Hero. "We serve the underserved. I feel like I'm representing all nurse practitioners out there who do similar things."

Diane O'Brien, FNP

Ever since she became a candy stripper at Wilkes-Barre General Hospital, Diane O'Brien has wanted to be a nurse.

"I would work in the hospital volunteering and one time I saw a man who was jaundiced and I couldn't understand what was wrong with him," O'Brien said. "I looked it up and it just intrigued me. Everything that nurses did I was very interested in and the whole health care field and I knew it was what I wanted to be."

O'Brien continued volunteering at the hospital throughout high school. After graduation, she went on to receive a diploma in nursing from the Wilkes-Barre General Hospital Nursing School in 1974. She also earned a Bachelor's of Science degree in nursing from Wilkes College in 1982, a Master of Science Degree in nursing from College Misericordia in 2000 and became a family nurse practitioner.

For many years, O'Brien

worked as an emergency room nurse at Wilkes-Barre General Hospital. Fifteen years ago she also became the coordinator of health services at Wilkes University.

"I've often regretted not going to medical school and not having the opportunity to go to medical school," O'Brien said. "I like the independence of a nurse practitioner and I liked what nurse practitioners did and their roles in health care. I wanted to do more and this was something I thought would advance my career."

O'Brien worked both jobs until three years ago when she stopped working in the emergency room. Two years ago she was promoted to director of health and wellness services at Wilkes.

"Sometimes people don't have an idea of how many students we see in a day," she said. "We typically see between 20 and 40 students in a day. It is typically a healthy population, but it's never boring. Whenever you think things are going very routinely, someone will come in who's sick and it keeps you on your toes."

O'Brien was nominated as a Health Care Hero by her husband, Patrick, and her daughters, Kara Mann, 28, and Jill, 25.

"My mom passed away seven years ago and I took care of her and my dad's 84...they (my family) see how I'm the caretaker of my friends, my family," O'Brien said. "They know if they come to me for something, they could count on me."

Susan Sordoni, M.D.

After her last child entered school, Susan Sordoni decided

she wanted to fulfill a lifelong dream - to become a doctor.

"I was 45 years old when I went to medical school," Sordoni said. "When the last of our children when off to school and I found myself with some time, I said 'What's next?' I talked about becoming a PA (physician assistant) and my husband encouraged me to think about medical school."

Now 63 years old, Sordoni received a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry and biology from College Misericordia in 1968. She and her husband, Andrew, have five children: Claire, 36; Patricia, 35; Jack, 34; Laura, 28; and Maria, 25.

In 1997, Sordoni obtained her medical degree from the former MCP Hahnemann Medical School.

During a period of unemploy-

ment in her medical career, she volunteered at Community Volunteers in Medicine in West Chester. She took the idea for a medical clinic back to the Wyoming Valley and was one of several volunteers who developed Volunteers In Medicine (VIM), a full-service medical clinic in Wilkes-Barre for people who have no primary care health insurance.

Sordoni serves as chair of the board at VIM. She volunteers at the clinic as a physician for half a day each week and another half a day during the week doing fundraising and other tasks.

"My most rewarding days are spent in the clinic helping folks who are really in need of the help," Sordoni said. "They're grateful for the help and they're willing to work with you."

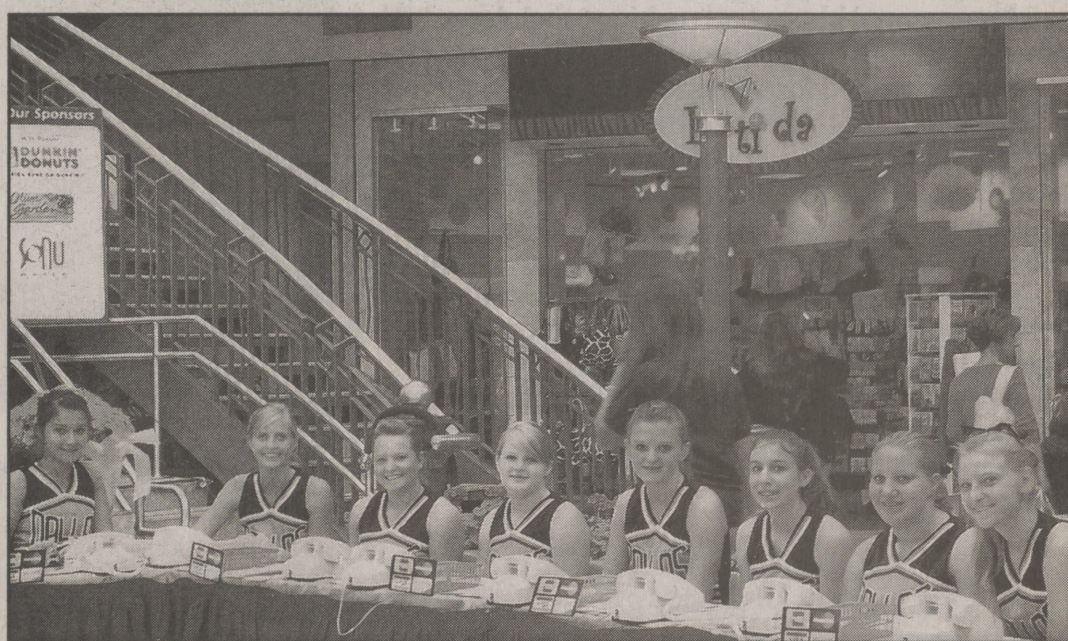
Sordoni is currently operating a private general medical prac-

tice in Kingston. She is also the founder and chairperson of the advisory committee of the Circle of Friends Program at Misericordia University. The program helps mentally challenged women transition from graduation to the workforce and independent living.

In addition, Sordoni volunteers as a physician at the Children's Advocacy Center in Scranton which provides forensic interviewing, medical exams and counseling to children who have been sexually or physically abused.

"For me, it was just overwhelming pride that the efforts of all the volunteers at VIM really earned this," Sordoni said about being named a Health Care Hero. "I think the clinic has become very quickly an integrated part of this community."

DHS CHEERLEADERS DONATE TIME AT JERRY LEWIS TELETHON



The Dallas High School cheerleaders donated their time on Labor Day by answering calls for the Jerry Lewis Telethon to help fight Muscular Dystrophy at the Steamtown Mall. From left, are Samantha Lentz, Amelia Pietraccini, Erika Sims, Bryann Cave, Megan Johnson, Jennifer Yanzuzi, Amanda Mikolaitis and Alyssa Charney.

TV

Continued from Page 1

sity, and then later received a master's degree in education from The University of Scranton.

After graduation, she became an elementary teacher at Dodson Elementary School in Wilkes-Barre. She taught grades two through six during a 31-year career.

"My mother said, 'For God's sake, Eileen, do something where you could pay the bills,'" Carlin said. "Teaching was a wonderful career and I loved it very much. Every month we did a poem and a Broadway song."

For many years, Carlin was active in the Showcase Theater, which was located across from Coughlin High School on North Washington Street in Wilkes-Barre. In the mid-1980s, she was asked to appear in a video for Wilkes-Barre General Hospital. The cameraman, Ed Finn, told Carlin she should write something. She did and her children's series "Read Around Gang" was produced and aired locally on WVIA-TV from 1983 to 1984.

In 1995, Geisinger auctioned off a background role on the television show "Frasier" to raise money for charity. Carlin was one of only two people to bid on the role and was the higher bidder, offering \$190.

She flew to California and appeared seated in the background in the fictional Café Nervosa on the "Bad Boy Dirty Girl" episode of "Frasier," which aired in Sept. 1995. Carlin says she and the other background actors were treated very well on the set of the show and were offered a full spread of food.

"It showed me that I had the skills to do the job," Carlin said.



CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK/ FOR THE DALLAS POST
Eileen Carlin poses in her Back Mountain home with her cat, Nora.

"In fact, when I was there I was asked by a casting agent if I could stay for another week and work on a pilot, but I was still teaching and I couldn't."

Intending to move to New York City after she retired, Carlin had no idea her future husband lived there.

She met her husband, Frederick Halsey, a native of New York City, at the Ramada Inn in Wilkes-Barre when he was in town for the funeral of his mother, Rose Homnick, and Carlin was attending a Friends of Education meeting at the Ramada. The couple married in 2000.

Carlin retired from teaching in 2002 and relocated to New York City. There, she secured roles in several commercials, including one for Eggland's Best and Charter Communications. She also has appeared in industrial videos for doctors' offices on topics, including Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's and menopause.

"Sometimes I am the caretaker

and sometimes I am the patient," Carlin said, laughing.

She was also a shadow puppeteer from 2004 to 2005 at Shadowbox Theater in New York City.

"Some children started to speak," Carlin said. "Little autistic children would call out (to the puppet)."

Carlin's husband worked as an investment banker at Bear Stearns in New York City until June 2008 when the couple moved to Dallas; however, they still maintain their apartment in the Jackson Heights section of Queens in New York City where her husband was raised. Carlin stays at the apartment when she is auditioning in the city.

"There's a whole different vibe (in New York)," Carlin said. "You're pounding, you're moving, but people are great. But here, you can still do a lot of things."

Also in 2008, Carlin played the role of Ruth Tripp Slocum in the locally-produced film titled, "Frances Slocum: Child of Two Americas," the story of Frances Slocum, a 5-year-old Quaker girl kidnapped by Delaware Indians from her parents' Wilkes-Barre home in 1778.

The movie was one of 200 films featured during the New York International Independent Film Festival in late October.

"It was wonderful to be able to bring the story of Frances Slocum to the screen to give people an understanding of this incredible story," Carlin said.

Carlin is still acting and is also an educational consultant at Club Z Tutoring franchise in Luzerne County. She has advice for young, aspiring actors and actresses: "Get the best training you can. Find the best acting classes you can. Be professional. Be persistent. It's not a game; it's a business and you have to treat it like a business. And have a back-up plan."

Lindley, Hunlock Creek; and Carline Lindley, Hunlock Creek.

Farewell

Board members Harold Grey, John Oliver and Charles Balavage were honored with plaques and gift bags for their service to the school board as their terms have expired. They will be replaced by David Paulauskas, Kevin Carey and Christopher Bo Kreller, beginning in December.

Andrew Salko, whose term also expired this year, was re-elected to the board.

The annual reorganization of the board meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 1, in the junior/senior high school library.

WELLNESS

Continued from Page 3

glish grades seven to 12; Susan Shaw, Plymouth, elementary; Justin Temperine, Hanover Township, elementary and early childhood; Lindsay Carpenter, Dallas, guidance; and Cheryl Higgins, Pittston, elementary.

The following people were added as substitute custodians: Diane Nevel, Shicks Hinny; Elizabeth Chamberlain, Hunlock Creek; Howard Long, Harveys Lake; and Dawn Vitak, Harveys Lake. Diane Nevel was also appointed as a part-time custodian for the 3 to 8 p.m. shift at Ross Elementary School at an

hourly rate of \$9.50.

Also, Colleen Ries, of Tunkhannock, was appointed as a substitute school nurse and Kimberly Ayers, of Sweet Valley, was added as a substitute teacher associate, clerical and food service worker.

Volunteers

John Connolly III, of Swoyersville, was appointed as a volunteer debate coach for the 2009-2010 school year. Sherry Hoover, of Shavertown, was approved as a volunteer assistant cheerleading coach.

The following were appointed as long-term band volunteers to assist with the elementary and high school bands: Susan Osieck, Harveys Lake; Barbie Titus, Shavertown; William

DALLAS YOUTH BASKETBALL LEAGUE

for the Shock.

Dallas Lions 16
Gallis Insurance 15
Lee Eckert made two free-throws with five seconds remaining as the Dallas Lions Knicks edged the Lakers from Gallis Insurance, 16-15.

Colin Perl added six points for the Knicks while Ricky Morgan had a key basket. Christian Wargo led the defense.

Aaron Yurko led the Lakers with 10 points, followed by Peter Capitano with three. Frankie Bevevino played strong defense.

Belrick Corp. 23
DeLuca Law 21
James Geiger scored 14 points and Ray Ostroski added 10 to lead the Belrick Corp. Spurs over the DeLuca Law Office Bulls, 23-21.

Adam Niznik led the Bulls with 14 points and Nick Malmes added five. Tim Elston anchored the defense.

Harry & Carlos 35
Thirty-One Lake Street 27
Tanner Gattuso scored 17 points and Dalton Gattuso added eight as the Celtics from Harry & Carlos outlasted the Thirty-One Lake Street Magic, 35-27.

Matt Harrison led the rebounding for the Celtics while Ryan Martin led the Magic attack with 16 points. David Simpson added six points.

Dr. Kovalick 34
Thompson Trucking 20
Spencer Bowanko and Chad Phillips combined for 21 points and Keith Gillette chipped in with an additional six as the Dr. Kovalick Cavaliers dominated the fourth quarter to defeat the Raptors from Thompson Trucking, 34-20.

Joey Bevevino led the Raptors with 10 points, assisted by Kyle Archer with six. Joey Thompson led the defense while Abdul Almeky controlled the rebounding.

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Bendick Law 24
Smith Insurance 14
Brielle Brace scored 14 points and Leah Gorr added six to lead the Bendick Law Office Liberty over the Smith Insurance Group Storm, 24-14.

Catherine Dillon led the Storm with 10 points while Katie Kapral and Courtney Devens each added two points. Strong defense was played by both Angela Bendick and Katie Snedecker.

Gattuso Group 32
McCabe Mortgage 12
Nicole Wren led the scoring and rebounding to give the Gattuso Group Silver Stars a win over the McCabe Mortgage Group Shock, 32-12.

Defensive support was given by Rachel Maniskas and Julia Zochowski. Lauren Dottor led the Shock, scoring with 10 points while Emma Doran added two points and eight rebounds.

Maddy Evans had two steals

for the Shock.

Amory Medical 21
Grasshopper Lawns 17
Courtney Hoats scored eight points and Taryn Chopyak added six to lead the Amory Medical Sparks over the Grasshopper Lawns Mercury, 21-17. Katie Kravitsky led the Mercury scoring with 10 points while Talia Kosierowski finished with seven.

Kim Pretko and Erica VanEttten played strong defense for their teams.

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Central Clay 18
UPS Store 14
Madalyn Kelley scored 10 points and Nicole Cavanaugh added four as the Central Clay Products Fever defeated the UPS Store Sun, 18-14.

Olivia Mennig led the Sun scoring with 10 points with Sara Lojewski adding four. Alexa Dosiak and Carly Perloff played great defense for the Sun.

Tiffany Zukosky and Lia Barbacci both added two points to the final Fever score.

Geibs Sheetrocking 28
Brace's Orchard 18
Danielle Walsh scored 10 points and Caroline Banas added eight to lead the Geibs Sheetrocking Sky over the Brace's Orchard Monarchs, 28-18. Emilee Zawatski led the Monarchs' scoring with 18 points with Maura Chappel leading the defense.

Janelle Sherman added four points to the Sky score, along with many rebounds.

PUZZLE ANSWERS

King Crossword

Answers
Solution time: 25 mins.
A I D G U A M T A F T
P S I U R G E O G R E
E L S F L E E T W O O D
D E C A F K I N
S H E R W O O D E I R O T
H E X S U M O S N E E
A R A B E A S T W O O D
D E M O N N E A R
W A S R Y D E R
H O L L Y W O O D E A U
E R I E A R N O A S S
N E E D P O E M L E T

Go Figure!

answers
9 ÷ 3 = 8
- + ÷
4 + 1 = 2
x x +
5 - 2 x 6
25 8 10

Super Crossword

Answers
N I C O L A M E S E L S E R A S E
I N U R E C O L T D E I T R O W L
P U R R F E C T I O N I S T S T O R E S
T R U T P I T A R K E T Y P E
A B A S E S C O B A
P L U B M E G W E R E N S C T A N
E L L E R Y L I E C O C O A S E A
D U L L Y A U N T A G O N I S M A R M
U R I D E L T A N O M A D P R I N
P I G E I G H T E E N S P A C I E Y
E C L A T C H E S S C E L L O
H E R A L D T H A N R A R E P R Y
A M E N S H A W N J A F F A H E E
O E N A L T A R N A T I V E S T A R L
O R I C P E R I L L O B E S I A G A L
N Y E E T A E L S A N A E R U S S
I S S U E W A B A S H
A X I D E N T M M E S A M E
R I A S O N A M B I G U O U S
A N G L E D F O R T R A F E R R A
L A Y E R F O R B A R N E V E N T