

ZACK

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edly asked the rescue crew. But no one could tell her anything.

The crew got Zack out of the car and into the ambulance. Traci climbed into the back of the ambulance with her son, intending to accompany him to the hospital. But the crew asked her to leave the ambulance so that they could concentrate on treating Zack. She would not see her son again until nearly eight hours later.

Traci was taken to the Dallas ambulance where she was treated for scrapes and cuts, after which both ambulances headed to the emergency room at Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center.

In the meantime, Jason had been notified by family members and was enroute to the hospital from his job in Scranton. Not knowing the condition of his wife and son, but trying not to panic, he "flew" down Interstate 81. When he arrived at the emergency room, Jason was told that Traci had minor injuries, but Zack was being life-flighted to Geisinger Medical Center in Danville.

Still not knowing much about Zack's injuries and prognosis, Jason and his brother, who was already at the hospital, headed for Danville for what seemed like the longest ride of their lives. Traci remained in Plains, being treated for her injuries.

In Danville, the doctors told Jason to pray. They would do their best, but they didn't think Zack would make it. Jason had just a few seconds with his son before they took Zack into surgery. A priest was called to sit with the family.

"I don't remember doing anything but praying for eight hours straight," Jason now recalls.

About four hours into Zack's surgery, with a group of family and friends already gathered, Traci and her best friend, Stef Sikora, arrived in Danville. Traci was at first reluctant to go into the hospital.

"I was petrified," she explains, "I was worried about Zack and I thought everyone was going to think it [the accident] was my fault."

The family sat vigil and waited

TOURNAMENT INFO ...

Stef Sikora, a friend of the Shoemaker family, holds an annual fund raiser to help offset the family's medical bills and other related expenses. The Zachary Shoemaker Dodgeball Tournament is a double-elimination event. The third annual tournament, held recently at the 109th Army, hosted 36 teams and raised \$3,900.

For more information about sponsoring the tournament or entering a team for next year's event, call Sikora at 574-5945 or e-mail iwudbestef@yahoo.com.

for word from the doctors.

After eight hours of surgery, the doctors emerged from the operating room. Zack had made it through surgery, but the prognosis was not good. He had sustained a Traumatic Brain Injury. The doctors had removed half of Zack's skull in order to allow the brain to swell without compressing the spinal cord. The next two days would be crucial.

The next morning, Zack's doctor suggested that Zack be put into a medically-induced coma. This, he said, would effectively shut down Zack's brain for two days, thus stopping the swelling from worsening. The risk was that brain function would be lost or Zack would never come out of the coma.

Jason and Traci followed the doctor's advice.

"We decided that if Zack was going to go," Jason explains, it was going to be on his own terms."

Zack was put into the coma and the family waited for two days. When doctors weaned Zack off the medication inducing the coma, the little boy remained unconscious.

A day later, while a nurse gave Zack a bath, his arm moved. Each day after that, a little more movement was observed. When Traci and Jason played music for Zack, his heart rate would rise - another good sign.

Two and a half weeks later, Zack opened his eyes. He remained in Danville for another two months before being transferred to Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) where he stayed until September 18.

In addition to tending to Zack's medical needs, the childhood experts at CHOP began a program of extensive therapy with him.



Members of Zachary Shoemaker's extended family pose for a photo at the third annual benefit dodge ball tournament at the 109th Army in Wilkes-Barre.

"They told us, 'You have an infant all over again and he will learn slowly,'" Jason explained.

Once at home, Zack began therapy at John Heinz Institute. Today, he goes to "school" at Pediatrics, a new learning center in Wilkes-Barre for medically-fragile children. While at the school, Zack receives out-patient therapy from the John Heinz therapists.

Now 6 years old, Zack cannot walk, talk or even swallow solid food. He will require physical, occupational and speech therapy for many years, possibly for the rest of his life.

Although Zack's needs are great, Jason and Traci are not discouraged. The young parents celebrate every bit of progress their son makes and have faith that he will continue to grow and learn.

"It's a slow climb, but he's doing better and better," the proud father says. "We just take one day at a time."

Zack has learned to kick his legs and make deliberate movements with his arms. He can give his dad a "high five" and turn the pages of his favorite books. He

giggles at his puppies and his little sister Abby, who's now 5 months old. He is able to eat pureed foods and is trying to talk.

"I'd give my last breath to hear him speak again," Traci says wistfully. "I am just waiting for that day!"

Through all of the trials and tribulations of the tragic accident and Zack's extended recovery, Traci and Jason have remained positive. Both say the experience has strengthened their faith and they have learned not to take life for granted. They are thankful to be able to care for Zack and Abby and have learned to focus on what they feel are the most important things in life - family and friends.

Traci and Jason don't know what the future holds for their son, but they look forward to every minute they have with him. Zack's therapy will continue and the family will celebrate each milestone he reaches. The Shoemakers know that the sky is the limit for their little Zack and they are proud to watch him grow little-by-little - one day at a time.

Farmers' Market will continue to Sept. 25

Although late July is usually a time to get away and travel, it can also be a time to enjoy all that your local community has to offer and the Back Mountain Memorial Library is no exception when it comes to summer time fun.

The annual Farmers' Market is now in full swing and will continue from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Saturday until September 25 on the library grounds. The market features a great selection of fresh produce, grown locally by area farmers; Amish sweets and treats, local eggs, fresh baked breads, plants to take home and grow in your own garden, as well as a variety of other delicious items, including homemade soups!

Bookshop open on Saturdays

The Slightly Read Bookshop will also be open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturdays only for the remainder of the summer. Stop in and pick up a few books for the beach or a novel or two to stay cool and beat the heat!

Nearly Old Shoppe re-stocked

Inside the library, our Nearly Old Shoppe is now restocked and ready to offer a variety of glassware, collectibles and other interesting

items for sale, as well as a selection of handmade floral arrangements, perfect for gift giving. This "shoppe" is located directly inside the library near the front foyer. All proceeds from sale of these items benefit the library.

Reading program slated

The next event in the "Make a Splash @ Your Library" summer reading program will be "Sea Creatures and Boats" an origami/stamper session for participants in the summer reading program. The session will be held at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, July 28, and is limited to 35 Readers (35 places at a table) and 15 Read-to-Mes on the Story Hour Rug. The origami fun will be for the readers and the little ones will have fun with sea-stampers!

Please register only if you are sure you will attend. Call the Children's Room of the library at 675-1182 for more information.

Book discussion groups

The selected book for the Donuts & Discussion meeting on July 26 will be "Lily's Crossing" by Patricia Riley Giff.

The selected book for the Young Adult Book Discussion group meeting on July 26 will be "What Happened to Lani Garver" by Carol Plum-Ucci.

Dallas Road Dept. will begin resurfacing of Spring Street

The Dallas Borough Road Department will begin work to resurface Spring Street on or about the week of August 2, weather permitting.

Once the street has been resurfaced, the borough will not approve any utility pave cuts (other than for emergencies) for a period of up to five years.

Any residents considering the installation of water, gas

or other utility repairs or improvements should be advised that any and all utility cuts to the roadway will be required to be completed prior to the street resurfacing projects and then prohibited for the five-year moratorium.

Anyone with questions regarding this road resurfacing project should call the Dallas Borough Road Department at 674-5362.

GAS

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ogy, horizontal gas drilling can and will be drilled under the lake. She added that, in June, 350 gas trucks and drivers were taken off the road due to various violations.

"We can't put up a Job Johnny because it could leak into the lake," she said. "But trucks carrying fracking water will be driving around our lake."

Borough attorney Charles McCormick said the council will take the moratorium idea under

advisement. A meeting will be scheduled with the Department of Environmental Protection but it will not be a public meeting, he said. When asked about the chances of a moratorium, he said the system is very complicated but "we are taking it one step at a time."

Residents told council that some gas water trucks were already spotted at Warren Place and on Second Street. McCormick said the council can put weight limits on its roads and have the gas company post bonds for repair work, but cannot ban certain trucks from using the roads.

Council member Ryan Dough-

ton said that, in the borough's favor, current zoning limits the gas industry's activity. He said an M-1 district, a manufacturing district, is the only area allowable for mineral extraction. This area is off Old Lake Road. Voices erupted from the crowded meeting room, claiming they read 300 acres have been leased already.

"The gas companies can lease land anywhere," McCormick said. "But without a conditional use variance permit, they cannot drill."

Residents asked if the borough's zoning board has received any variance requests. McCormick said no.

In other news, resident John

Smulowitz questioned council about the progress of updating the boathouse ordinance. In May 2009, council adopted a new zoning ordinance, defining a boathouse as a structure built over the water to solely store watercraft and watercraft equipment.

Last fall, residents asked council to redefine the ordinance to allow bathroom facilities and other amenities.

McCormick said an updated proposal is being prepared and should be ready for review at the August or September meetings.

The next borough meeting is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 17, in the municipal building.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Basketball clinic set

The Rock Recreation Center, 340 Carverton Rd., Trucksville will host a Pro-Shot Shooting Instruction Clinic for basketball players in fourth through 12th grades.

Players in fourth through seventh grade will meet from 1 to 5 p.m. on Thursday, July 29, while players in eighth through 12th grades will meet from 1 to 5 p.m. on Friday, July 30.

For more information, contact Doug Miller at The Rock Rec Center at 696-2769.

Girls basketball camp

scheduled

Rock Solid Girls Elite Basketball Camp will be held Monday through Thursday, Aug. 9-19, at The Rock Rec. Center, 340 Carverton Rd., Trucksville.

Girls entering third to fifth grade will meet from 4 to 5:30 p.m. and girls in sixth through eighth grades will meet from 5:30 to 7 p.m.

The camp will focus on making players more fundamentally sound with position specific drills for each player.

For more information, call the Rock Rec Center at 696-2769.

BILL

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weight of heavy trucks and geo textile to aid in drainage.

Sutton said EnCana Oil & Gas U.S.A., of Denver CO, had posted bonds and agreed to maintain and repair any roads used within Lehman Township while it is operating within the neighboring municipalities.

"They have been very cooperative to work with," Sutton said.

In other news, a request to prevent tractor trailers from using Jake Brakes in the area of Route 118 near Market Street and Cook's Store is pending a ruling from PennDOT. Ide said in his experience, PennDOT will not restrict Jake Brakes in areas with 55 mph speed limits and grades of six percent or more. The area in consideration has both.

Jake Brakes are a braking system on diesel engines that, when compressed, release air and the truck is slowed down. The system generates a loud stuttering sound.

Ide said PennDOT will survey the area and a final decision will be made.

SCHOOL BRIEFS

Sem presents dance production

The Wyoming Seminary Performing Arts Institute (PAI) will present its annual dance production at 3 p.m. on today, July 25, at the Buckingham Performing Arts Center of Wyoming Seminary.

The company will perform dances ranging from contemporary to jazz by composers ranging from Steve Reich to Dave Brubeck.

The performance is free and open to the public. For more information, call 270-2177.

DHS Class of 1970 plans reunion

The Dallas High School Class of 1970 will hold its 40th anniversary reunion from 6 to 11 p.m. on Friday, July 30, at Appletree Terrace, Newberry Estates, Dallas.

There will be an open bar, food, music and great memories. Members of the classes of 1968, 1969 and 1971 who missed their class reunions are invited.

Anyone interested in attending is asked to make a reservation by calling Sally Cyphers Johnson at 690-6771 or Scott

Lefko at 410-848-9124.

Misericordia plans Adult Learner Night

The Center for Adult and Continuing Education at Misericordia University will host an Adult Learner Night from 4 to 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 4, in Huntzinger Room 218 in Sandy and Marlene Insalaco Hall.

The event is open to adult learners interested in obtaining more information about Misericordia University's undergraduate and graduate programs.

Appointments can be made for Adult Learner Night but no registration is required. For more information, contact Larree Brown, assistant director of admissions and recruitment, Center for Adult and Continuing Education, at 674-6451.

One-room school reunion scheduled

Classmates of the once one-room schools in Jackson Township will hold their class reunion at 1 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 8, at the home of Thom and Sandy Morris, Jackson Church Road, Shavertown.

For more information, call Helen Franklin at 675-4238.

Lake-Noxen School Alumni will meet

Lake-Noxen School Alumni will hold their ninth annual reunion at noon on Saturday, Aug. 9, at the Harveys Lake Beach Club Pavilion.

Those attending are asked to bring their favorite covered dish to serve six to eight people and an appropriate utensil. Lunch will be served at 1 p.m. Cost is \$1 per person.

For more information, call Tanya (Kocher) Christ at 945-5874 or Carlene (Kocher) McCaffrey at 639-5308.

PUZZLE ANSWERS

King Crossword

Answers
Solution time: 25 mins.
DADA RAW STAY
AVIV ANI HOBO
TOBOGGAN OBEY
ENSUE DORADO
CLOT DEC
KITH NEVE CBS
EGO ACRES OAK
NOB DEMI ASHY
YMA SLOB
ADJURE NUTTY
HAUL TOBESURE
EDGE CHI EBON
MOSS HOG REDS

Go Figure!

9	x	4	-	7	29
÷	÷		-		
3	+	4	x	2	14
x	+		x		
5	-	1	x	6	24
15		2		30	

Super Crossword

Answers

GAPP	HORAGE	CATS	HAS
ODOR	APACHE	TRAO	GELL
MALLOTT	FITCHER	ABOU	ELIOT
AMAZE	KEN	OSA	SPOT
	ELIE	LEHAR	STAMP
SUDDENLY	SUDAN	SHIRE	
ATE	ALAN	GNASH	FERRA
WALSH	ELATED	PEAL	WED
	CAR	ETA	GRAVE
SCARE	CRO	HERE	SNUG
CHALET	CHADROE	NEEDLE	
ROME	UNRE	DET	GREAT
EVE	DRIED	ARIT	ERK
PER	REED	COMBAT	ESTEE
ELOPE	COLOP	OLEO	TINK
ORATE	CHS	AWKEN	WASSE
	SINDE	MANON	MOOR
CADS	MOO	ODS	WEEB
OLIO	PRAM	GRANAFLEY	NOW
ASAH	LANA	LOVAGE	OONA
TAZ	ELSE	ORIGON	USSE

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