

TREE

Continued from Page 1

Joe Pearson, who owns Joe's Christmas Tree Farm in Lake Township, offers a stand-straight tree stand, which also keeps things stress free during the holidays. A hole is drilled into the bottom of the tree trunk and the tree is inserted into the stand with no screws or second-guessing.

Once the presents are all packed away, clean up should be an easy task, too.

Pearson puts a bag around the trunk before tree-trimming so all the needles are caught and clean up only involves lifting the bag over the tree.

"I put the bag through the trunk, so it's there even on Christmas," he said. "It really saves a lot of muss."

Pickarski said her late husband William would often cut the tree into pieces to make discarding it remains a little less tedious.

"We put a sheet underneath the tree apron, too, to catch all the needles," she said.

Jackie Frank, of Luzerne, said she's glad she has hardwood floors now because cleaning up needles is much easier.

"I remember when I was younger the needles would be in the carpet until June," she said, laughing.

While getting a real tree may



Abby Killian, of Hunlock Creek, stands on a tree bundler at her family's farm, Joe's Tee Farm in Lake Township.

involve some extra work, many said the sawing, dragging and constant watering is worth all the frankincense and myrrh in the world.

"There's nothing like the smell of a fresh-cut tree," said Pickarski, who set up an artificial tree this year due to health issues. "I can still look out my window and walk around the property and see the trees."

Seven-year-old Alex Vhrel, of Luzerne, helped pick out her first real tree this year.

"I like the smell," she said. "I can't wait to decorate it."

Pearson said the accomplishment of cutting down a tree is also a fun part of the tradition — even after 25 years in the tree-farming business.

"I like to be able to say, 'I did it,'" he said.



Annalise Cheshire, center, is guarded by MaKenna Bryant (No. 8) and Heather Shively (No. 1) for the Hurricanes.



Nora Brown, left, and Annalise Cheshire run down the sidelines together.



Emma Oley advances the ball for the Twisters.

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Dallas Elementary School fifth-grade students wander around Biz Town in Pittston, a mock town set up by Junior Achievement to teach students real-life skills like banking, commerce and business procedures.

CLOSE

Continued from Page 1

"It's great and it's hectic," said Barbara Fleming, of Shavertown. Her daughter, 11-year-old Emily, landed a job as a savings officer at the Pennstar Bank.

"It's (a good) experience because they get to learn about what they're in for when they get older," said Jennifer Henninger, of Dallas. "They get to earn money and make decisions with it."

Melissa Turlip, president of Junior Achievement of NEPA, said that's the program's goal — to teach children about personal finance.

"It equates the value of money to work," she said. "Many say that it's eye-opening."



Dallas Elementary School fifth-grade students, from left, Alyssa Angelicola, Bailey Slacktish and Renee Rinehimer are bank tellers for the day at the Junior Achievement mock business town in Pittston.

DOGS

Continued from Page 3

jumped on her back and circled the props laid on the floor during the country song.

Hoyson said, while the movements take plenty of planning, practice and "high quality" treats ("Lots of treats," she said), anyone can dance with their dog, even if it's just in between household chores.

"Even people who have 'just pets' can do this," she said. "It's fun stuff."

New to freestyle, Nancy Kosteleba, of Forty Fort, recently took her 7-year-old Bedlington Terrier, Bogey, to watch the club members perform with their doggy dance partners. Bogey is an 8-time American Kennel Club show winner and competes in various sporting events all over the country.

"I think we're going to join," she said. "It seems fun and engaging."



Una Valanski, of Dallas, kisses Chadwick as Spencer sits on her legs during a practice session of the Doghouse Dancers.

BMUSA girls soccer playoffs held

The Twisters and the Hurricanes tangled in the Back Mountain Youth Soccer Association U12 girls championship game with the Twisters coming out on top of a 3-0 score. In U11 action, the Lightning squeaked past the Tornados, 1-0.

Legion honored

The Dallas American Legion baseball team representing Post 672 presented plaques and a team picture to Jim Spencer, post commander. The team completed a successful season under coach Tom Evans and won its division and a second-place finish in the regional tournament. From left, are Tom Evans, Legion Baseball manager; Joe Kelley, past commander; and Spencer.

BOOKS

Continued from Page 3

are presented by The Russell Newell Family: "Incognito: The Secret Life of the Brain" by David Eagleman. "The Voyage of the Rose City" by John McCloskey Moynihan

The following books are in memory of **Algard K. Urban** and are presented by Carol Kosisky, Stephen Kosisky and Tony Gisolfi: "The Magical Garden of

Claude Monet" by Laurence Anholt, "Sow and Grow: A Gardening Book for Children" by Tina Davis

The following books are in memory of **Susan Stolarick** and are presented by Ron and Betsy Balonis: "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star" by Jerry Pickney, "Swirl by Swirl: Spirals in Nature" by Joyce Sidman, "Should I Share My Ice Cream?" by Mo Willems

The following books are in memory of **Leona Dudascik** and are presented by The Davenport Family: "Happy Pig Day!" by Mo Willems, "Alicia Alonso: Prima

Ballerina" by Carmen T. Bernier-Grand

HONOR
In honor of **Mrs. Marcella Fay** on her 90th birthday, "Nantucket" by Leslie Linsley, presented by Barbara Law and Maureen Kasenchak

In honor of **Evelyn Kersey**, "Eyewitness Travel Europe," presented by Mary Ann Hopkins

In honor of **Dr. Norman Schulman** on his birthday, "Gems and Minerals" by Kimberly T. Tait, presented by Cynthia Post Mitchell

PUZZLE ANSWERS

Puzzles, Page 2

King Crossword — Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

RAM	SEA	EDAM
IDEA	ODD	UNDO
NASH	NIL	GASP
DRAWL	TIDE	
	ION	BINDER
JEALOUS	SEINE	
AVID	TAP	OVID
MEDEA	TORNADO	
SNARLS	WOE	
	NEW	WITCH
CORE	ARK	LORE
AWES	RUE	LEER
WEBS	MEG	DEB

Go Figure! — answers

8	+	9	×	1	17
×		÷		+	
4	-	3	×	5	5
-		+		×	
6	+	7	+	3	16
26		10		18	

Super Crossword — Answers

LOIN	TIGOT	STRAW	BIGOT
IAGO	NOLO	AROMA	LORNE
SHOE	DI	QUE	VERNOTIDE
PURL	GLINS	STEEN	ABATE
	AGT	WET	DAM
THAT	FOOD	ASOF	BEN
ROMA	AWL	PAGE	OHARA
AWAKE	FREDA	PROT	LOREN
WIZEN	UKE	BOOM	SITONG
LEE	TAJ	RIPE	LEANTO
	WITH	HALFTHE	
SNIPER	HIED	ADA	MAC
CANARY	ERISE	PAZ	SWEDE
ADANG	AOE	GOILLY	HEROD
LINED	PACT	BEE	ACRE
ERE	EVE	HISS	CALORIES
	ESS	DEE	CAP
BASIN	MAIDS	PATTYPAN	
COST	STWICE	CLAS	MUCH
ARTTEL	ALLIST	ERIE	ARTE
LEONE	GESTE	GEAR	REID