



BILL TARUTIS PHOTOS/FOR THE TIMES LEADER

Back Mountain Regional Fire and EMS Lt. Dan Hopfer, center right, speaks to juniors and seniors during a mock accident at Lake-Lehman High School in Lehman Township. Crews from Back Mountain Regional Fire and EMS, Shavertown, and Sweet Valley demonstrated rescue operations for the students to impress upon them the dangers of drinking and driving and to make smart choices during prom season.

ACCIDENT

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two years, was scheduled to coincide with the students' prom which was held Friday night.

As students watched the scenario unfold, a Lehman Twp. police officer conducted a field sobriety test on the driver while emergency personnel from Back Mountain Regional Fire & EMS were joined by Sweet Valley Volunteer Fire Dept., Shavertown Volunteer Fire Dept., Medic 30 and Eli's Towing who all participated in the program.

The "victims" were believable, having been made up by members of the school's theater arts department. Paint was used to symbolize blood and Penny, a "passenger" in one of the vehicles, had shards of glass protruding from his forehead.

Although there was lots of conversation among students during the program, when questioned, most seemed to understand the importance of paying attention when driving.

"I wouldn't want to put my parents through this," said Karli Doran as a "victim" (Kendra Stine) was wheeled to a waiting ambulance.

Caitlyn Callahan said she could relate to the fear involved in an accident of this magnitude.

"I was in an accident like this. I was T-boned," she remembered. "It was scary being in the ambulance and in the trauma unit, not knowing if there's internal bleeding. Your life could be gone quickly."

"I wouldn't want to be in that," said Ryan Akins, who remembered being badly injured when he was hit by a car while walking a few years ago. "This helps us learn to drive safely."



Rescue personnel remove 'victim' Mike Penny from a vehicle during a mock accident staged for juniors and seniors at Lake-Lehman High School in Lehman Township.

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When a student questioned Hopfer as to whether a helicopter would be involved in the program, Hopfer responded by saying, "There's an old saying. Bad news travels by air."

Shortly after, a Life Flight helicopter landed in the field outside the school and prepared to transport the critically-injured "patient" to a nearby hospital.

With the noise of the chopper as a backdrop, Lake-Lehman teacher Jean Lipski said she was sure students would take something away from the program.

"It's in high school students' nature to act like nothing bad will ever happen," said Lipski, who teaches gifted students. "But, believe me, this will have an impact on them."

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BILL TARUTIS PHOTOS/FOR THE DALLAS POST

Frances Slocum State Park environmental education specialist and park naturalist Kathy Kelchner leads the Wycallis Elementary kindergartners back from their hike.

NATURE

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ternoon class came in for a special treat during their hike when they got a good look at a red-tailed hawk sitting on a stump.

Carolyn Comitz, a kindergarten student who lives in Dallas, liked seeing the hawk and found the nature part of the trip interesting. Surprisingly, the biggest excitement for her was the transportation to the park. "It was my first time riding a bus!" she said.

Charlie Letwinsky, also a kindergarten student from Dallas, enjoyed the trip, too. He liked seeing and touching the animal pelts in the nature center.

After the hike, Kelchner helped the children make a nature necklace which featured a wooden medallion with a nature picture stamped on it.

The afternoon trip came to an exciting close while the children were seated at picnic tables enjoying a snack before returning to the bus. A pair of Canada geese flew into view and landed in the lake in front of the children and joined their family of six goslings.



Wycallis kindergartners Wakana Inoue, left, and Paige Slavinski pet fur coats at the Frances Slocum State Park Environmental Education Center.



Devon Nelson, left, Giovanna Smacchi and Carolyn Comitz examine a Cooper's hawk.

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