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The Newspaper for
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Thursday, February 1, 2007

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Girl glad 'to be back to normal"

By Amy L. Ashbridge

Staff Writer

MIDDLEFIELD _ Rhiannon Fralick shows remarkably few effects from the car crash that nearly killed her 10 months ago.

"It's very nice to be back to normal," Rhiannon said Wednesday at her parents' home in Middlefield.

Rhiannon was hospitalized from April until the end of August 2006 after being involved in a serious crash April 2 on county Route 35 in Middlefield. She turned 9 years old a week after the crash. Rhiannon was inside the van with her brothers, 11-year-old Tristan and 3-year-old Loial; her father, Thomas, was driving the van home after attending services at St. Innocent's Orthodox Church in Oneonta.



Rhiannon Fralick, 9, works on a craft project with her mother, Mary, in the dining room of their home Wednesday on county Route 35 in Middlefield. (Star photo by Julie Lewis)

Rhiannon's mother, Mary, said Tristan was the hero after the crash.

"He was the one that was able to get out of the car and go for help," Mary Fralick said Wednesday.

Rhiannon broke both of her arms and legs and had serious open and closed traumatic brain injuries. She was airlifted from Mary Imogene Bassett Hospital in Cooperstown to Albany Medical Center, where she stayed for about a month. She was then transferred to the Northwoods Rehabilitation Center in Niskayuna.

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