

LIFETIMES

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Diane Popson won a basket in the raffle.



Patty Eichler won two baskets in the silent auction.

PORTAGE COUNTY

Fund-raiser helps Head Start

Portage Learning Centers recently hosted its annual reverse raffle and silent auction fund-raiser.

The proceeds from the event support the Head Start program that serves all of Portage County.

The event was held at the Kent Elks Lodge and featured silent auction items, a basket raffle, a 50/50 drawing and sideboard sales.

Special guests at the event included State Rep. Kathleen Chandler, Portage County Auditor Janet Esposito, Portage County Coroner Roger Marcial and Ravenna Mayor Kevin Poland.

The winners of the grand prize were Cheryl Chlysta, Patty Eichler, Lisa Hunter, Shannon Livengood and A.J. Neely. Each person won \$200, because they chose to split the grand prize.

Portage Learning Centers is the agency that administers Head Start and other quality child care programs for Portage County. The children who benefit from this program receive the education to prepare them for kindergarten, family support



Grand prize winners at the recent Portage Learning Centers fund-raiser are, from left, A.J. Neely, Shannon Livengood, Patty Eichler, Lisa Hunter and Cheryl Chlysta.

services, meals and health services.

The event sponsors included Community Action Council of Portage County, Kevin Crowley, Home Savings Bank, Portage Community Bank and Wood-Kortright-Borkoski Funeral Home in

Ravenna.

Local community members running for judge who donated to or attended the raffle were David Brode, Becky Doherty, Mark Fankhauser, Tommie Jo Marsilio, Bill Nome and Kevin Poland.

Portage Learning Centers Outreach Coordinator Shawna Borkoski expressed gratitude to all who sponsored, attended and donated items for the event. "It was the generosity of all of these people that made the event a success," said Borkoski.

AREA HAPPENINGS

Diabetes workshop set Thursday

A workshop on diabetes will be held at 6 p.m. Thursday at The Loyalton of Ravenna, 141 Chestnut Hill Drive.

The event is free and open to the public.

The diabetic nutritional program will be led by Tina Rasor of Accurate Medical

Supply Inc. Topics will include "Diabetic Foot Care" and "Preventing Complications with Diabetes."

Those attending can receive a free meter upgrade and could be eligible for a pair of diabetic shoes.

To register, call 330-296-4545.

Local coffee house plans benefit

Arabica in Streetsboro, located at 9358 Market Square Drive, will be holding a fund-raiser from 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday. Half the proceeds from drip coffee and 100 percent of the proceeds from the sale of hanging art will be given to the Chapel at Tinkers Creek to help with renovations. For more information, call 330-626-0607.

A free watercolor art demonstration will be given by

Sheila Liston of Liston's Fine Arts in Hudson.

A Scrabble tournament will be held at 12:30 p.m. Nov. 14, also at the Arabica in Streetsboro. Space is limited. Register by calling 330-626-0607.

The entry fee is \$8, with half of the proceeds going to the Streetsboro Parks and Recreation Department, and the rest of the money will go to the winner.

Monthly dance in Kent Saturday

Portage County Chapter No. 600 of International Parents Without Partners will hold its monthly dance from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. Saturday at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 3703, 500 VFW Parkway, off Stow Road, in Kent.

Music will be provided by disc jockey Mel.

The monthly dances are open to the public.

This month's dance theme is "Country & Western." The cost is \$8 per person for non-members and \$6 per person for members.

For information on joining Parents Without Partners, call Warrine at 330-699-2361 or 330-322-9559.

G.E. Retirees to meet on Friday

The G.E. Retirees will meet at 10:15 a.m. Friday at East Park Restaurant in Ravenna.

The breakfast meeting is open to all General Electric Co. employees who have finished their shift.

WINDHAM

Halloween history is topic for Friday Club

The October meeting of the Windham Friday Club was held at the home of Bonnie Oliver with Maureen See as co-hostess. Following a Halloween buffet, a business meeting was held. Members decided to make a \$25 donation to the Windham United Methodist Church in memory of Richard Sands, husband of longtime club member Louise Sands.

New officers were elected for 2010: Pam Cree, president; Pegge Petkovic, vice president; Helena Belden, secretary; and Pat Clayton, treasurer.

The evening's program was presented by Maureen

See and was a brief history of Halloween, from the Celtic festival at the end of summer, to the later addition of Roman and Christian influences. Each successive ethnic group contributed to the evolution of the contemporary Trick-or-Treat rituals.

Members all then made masks to "scare away" the ghosts or spirits in the traditions of early days.

Door prizes were won by Pat Clayton and Pam Cree, who each received a patchwork wallet.

The next meeting will be on Nov. 20 at the home of Suzanne Evitts with Jodi Woolf as the co-hostess.

OPPORTUNITY

Roby Lee's is offering free wedding reception

Roby Lee's Restaurant and Banquet Center in Newton Falls is giving away a free wedding reception.

One bride will receive a free wedding reception for up to 200 guests.

The package, valued at \$4,000, includes all linens, table centerpieces and banquet hall decorations. The dinner will include two appetizers, one pasta with two sauces, three main entrees, one potato selection, one vegetable selection, two salads, fresh baked rolls, coffee

and punch fountain.

To qualify for the drawing, pick up a copy of the official contest rules and conditions at Roby Lee's Restaurant, 425 Ridge Road in Newton Falls. The bride must submit a story by Nov. 20, explaining why she would like to win.

The winner will be announced at the restaurant's 13th annual Bridal and Catering Show on Nov. 22. The bride must also register in person the day of the show and must be present to win.

AROUND BRIMFIELD



SHIRLEY MARS

"We can only be said to be alive in those moments when our hearts are conscious of our treasures." — Thornton Wilder

The amount of money one has may determine wealth, but real treasures are those things for which you would not take money. It is especially appropriate that we reflect upon our treasures as we prepare for this Thanksgiving season.

Last month I wrote about a fund-raiser that Mike Kostensky, owner of Mike's Place Restaurant, was sponsoring for my 24-year-old niece, Frieda Tompkins, who is desperately battling brain cancer. Through the generous donations of many people, we were able to raise more than \$2,000.

My heart was touched to see so many friends and strangers reach into their pockets to help someone who many did not even know.

To everyone who participated in any way, I thank you from the depths of my heart. Kind people are a precious treasure.

Even after the event, customers continued to put money into a donation jar. I was deeply saddened to get a call from Mike informing me that the donation jar had been stolen.

In reviewing the security tape from the restaurant, the details unfolded.

A man came into the restaurant asking for water for his radiator. While waiting, he appears to be reading the label on the donation jar with my niece and her family's picture and story on it. After getting the water, he went out then came back in, asking for more water. While the host went to get the second jug of water, the man took off his jacket, threw it over the donation jar, and scooped it up.

As he turned to leave, the jar dropped to the floor. He quickly picked it up and put it back under his jacket. The noise of the jar dropping caught the attention of the host. The thief told the host that he saw a man grab the jar and run out the door.

The man then turned and walked out with the jar under his jacket.

Stealing money from someone who is dying of cancer is unconscionable. This incident has reminded me that our personal morals, values and integrity are treasures that cannot be purchased.

We are putting another donation jar at Mike's Place, but it will be chained. Donations to the Frieda Tompkins Benevolent Fund can be made at any First Merit Bank.

According to Harry and Diane Bowman, spending a month enjoying the beauty of Scotland and Ireland with someone you love is a treasure that "superlatives cannot adequately describe." They tried to capture their incredible trip in more than 1,700 pictures they took along the way.

Their adventure included visits to the Book of Kells in Dublin, Ireland, and then on to Scotland to enjoy Dunoon and the River Clyde, Stirling Castle, the Falkirk Wheel, the Borders Abbeys Ruins, Jedburgh, Dryburgh, Melrose, and Kelso, Bowhill House and Abbotsford (home of Sir Walter Scott). One highlight was eating an Angus burger in Edinburgh. They arrived in Scotland with two 50-pound suitcases and returned home with four 50-pound suitcases!

The treasure of health can be shared by donating blood at the Red Cross Blood Drive that will be held Nov. 18 in the Conference Center at the Northeastern Ohio Universities Colleges of Medicine and Pharmacy in Rootstown. For more information, call 330-325-6241.

Having a police department that is actively involved in helping the residents of Brimfield is a treasure that should not be taken for granted.

I enjoyed talking to Officer Rafferty at the Friday night football game. As the Field Schools' resource officer, he truly cares about the children of our community and goes above and beyond his duties to serve.

I also spoke with Officer Knarr and Reserve Officer Beth Holmes during the game and learned that we have two new canine officers. Officer Knarr's new sidekick is a beautiful black German shepherd named Havoc. Officer Allen is in the process of training his dog, Drogen. Canine Officer Joker is the fully certified veteran of the threesome and serves alongside Officer Chris Adkins.

Those who serve in the military are a great national treasure. On Nov. 11, Veterans Day, the Brimfield Applebee's is offering a complimentary meal to anyone who has served in or is currently serving in the military. Proof of military service must be shown.

The Brimfield Police Department is sponsoring the following holiday events:

Nov. 14 — Thanksgiving Fill-A-Cruiser from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. at the Brimfield Walmart on Tallmadge Road and at the Speedway Service Station on S.R. 43 near I-76. Items to be collected include nonperishable food, personal care products and cash donations. All proceeds will be distributed by the Brimfield Food Cupboard.

Nov. 29 — Community "Carols in the Park" in Town Center Park at 7 p.m. Along with a visit from Santa, the Field High School Choir will perform.

Dec. 3 — DARE Dinner with Santa from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at Brimfield Elementary School, 4182 S.R. 43. Dinner includes roast beef, chicken, green beans, mashed potatoes, gravy, salad, rolls, dessert and soft drinks. The meal is free for children ages 4 and under; \$6 for children ages 5 to 12; and \$12.50 for adults. Tickets can be purchased at the Brimfield Police Department, 1287 Tallmadge Road, no later than Dec. 1. All proceeds benefit Shop with a Cop and DARE. For more information, call the Brimfield Police Department at 330-673-7716.

Dec. 5 — DARE Breakfast with Santa from 8 to 10 a.m. at the Brimfield Applebee's, 220 Tallmadge Road. Breakfast includes French toast, scrambled eggs, bacon, toast, juice and coffee. The meal is free for children ages 2 and under; \$6 for ages 3 to 12; and \$9 for adults. Tickets must be purchased from the Brimfield Police Department by Dec. 4. All proceeds benefit Shop with a Cop and DARE.

I challenge you to make a list of your greatest treasures and take the opportunity to express gratitude for them!

Until next time ... Got news? Share it by contacting Shirley Mars at 330-673-0241 or at mars@ohiomars.com.