

HealthLink director earns recertification

CFRE International has recertified Mae O'Brien, executive director of HealthLink Medical Center, as a Certified Fund Raising Executive (CFRE). O'Brien joins over 5,300 professionals around the world who hold the CFRE designation.

Individuals granted the CFRE credential have met a series of standards set by CFRE International which include tenure in the profession, education, demonstrated fundraising achieve-

ment, and a commitment to service to nonprofit organizations. They have also passed a rigorous written examination testing the knowledge, skills, and abilities required of a fundraising executive, and have agreed to uphold Accountability Standards and the Donor Bill of Rights.

Located in Southampton, HealthLink is a free clinic for working, uninsured low-income adults living in Bucks and Montgomery counties.

Conference is all about grass

The 2014 Eastern Pennsylvania Grazing Conference, "Healthy Pastures: It's All About the Grass," takes place 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Aug. 21 at the Penn National Race Course in Grantville.

The conference is ideal for anyone who has an interest in extending the grazing season, maintaining horses and livestock on limited acreage, improving pastures, utilizing rotational grazing systems and methods, and selecting appropriate

plant species. Morning sessions will address topics that all livestock managers have in common, including presentations on forage growth and management, soil fertility and pasture renovation. The conference will also feature distinctive workshops for horse owners.

The cost is \$45, which includes handout materials and lunch.

For more information, contact Dick Hann at 717-832-0127.

Holiday House Pet Resort slates microchipping event

As a way to remind pet owners to have their pets microchipped and to keep the registration information up-to-date, the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) and the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA) created National Check the Chip Day. Doylestown Veterinary Hospital and Holiday House Pet Resort will host a free Check the Chip event 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, Aug. 15, at 380 N. Shady Retreat Road, Doylestown.

Whether scared away by loud noises like thunder and firecrackers, slipping out a door that was accidentally left open, or getting past an invisible fence, losing a pet can happen. One in three pets will go missing from home during their lifetimes. Without correct identification, 90 percent of missing pets never return home.

When a lost pet arrives at a veterinary clinic or animal shelter, it is scanned for a microchip. The microchip is linked to a registry

with contact information.

All community pet owners can stop by to have their pet's microchip scanned for their number and to receive registry information. There will also be information about the HomeAgain microchip program recommended by and administered at Doylestown Veterinary Hospital.

Guests will also be treated to family fun and games. The event is free, open to the public, and will be held rain or shine.

Animal Alliance hosts foster, volunteer night

Because of the vast turnout and support generated from last month's workshop, Animal Alliance is hosting its second Information Session and Foster Training Workshop 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 14, at The Robert W. Curts Memorial Pet Adoption Center, 1432 Route 179 North, Lambertville, N.J.

At the workshop, Animal Alliance will outline all of the volunteer options at the center and pro-

vide all the necessary training and information needed to successfully foster a pet. Topics will focus on basic care including: feeding bottle babies, caring for nursing mothers, and administering medication as well as the expected time commitment and space requirements.

Animal Alliance will provide fosters with all of the necessary food, supplies and medical care, although donations of these items are always appreciated. Foster ani-

mals include cats, nursing cats with litters of kittens, abandoned kittens, adult dogs and puppies. All of the pets at Animal Alliance have been locally rescued from dire situations, medically treated, rehabilitated, and are in the final stages of finding their "forever" homes.

Register by calling 609-818-1952. The organization is looking for foster homes and also has multiple volunteer opportunities at the pet adoption center.



Karate fundraiser aids local family



The Monaco family, whose home was destroyed in a fire last month, are the beneficiaries of a Karate Seminar Fundraiser on Aug. 10 at The Solebury Club.

The Solebury Club will host a Karate Seminar Fundraiser on Aug. 10 in support of the Monaco family, whose house erupted into flames on July 24.

The family and pets all made it out of the house without injuries beyond minor burns, but the home was destroyed when the fire reignited the next morning.

Gary and Katherine Monaco, parents of Garrett, Conlin and Shane Monaco, have been members of The Solebury Club since 2006. Garrett and Conlin have been part of the karate family at the Solebury Club for many years. Garrett recently earned his black belt at the club and Conlin is a purple belt.

"Once we realized what happened to the Monaco house, everyone at The Solebury Club and our extended karate family wanted to do something to help the Monaco family," said Solebury Club owner and chief karate instructor, Robert DeAngelis.

The fundraiser is an opportuni-

ty to give back to a family that has given much to its community. One example of the giving nature of the Monacos is the story of Garrett's hair. Garrett grew his hair to an uncontrollable length, with no explanation as to why. After over a year of growth followed by a clean hair-cut, the club later found out that he was growing his hair to donate it to Locks of Love.

The Solebury Club along with KarateThrows.com will hold the seminar on Sunday, Aug. 10, from 9 to 10:30 a.m. The cost of the seminar is \$25 and all of the proceeds will go directly to the Monaco Family.

The Solebury Club will also set up a donation box at the in its reception area. Donations may be dropped off at The Solebury Club located at 4612 Hughesian Drive Buckingham. All donations of cash or check are welcome. Make checks payable to Gary Monaco.

For information, contact Kristina Shea at 215-794-3494.

Lenape Valley Foundation hosts Suicide Prevention Conference

Lenape Valley Foundation hosted its annual Suicide Prevention Conference, Unlocking Suicidal Secrets: New Thoughts on Old Problems in Suicide Prevention, on July 29 at Ann's Choice in Warmminster.

Speaking to an audience of 185, Dr. Shawn Christopher Shea, an internationally authority on suicide, shared his expertise and strategies in assessment of suicide. To change the trend of increasing suicides, now more than 38,000 per year, Shea emphasized the need to prevent the development of suicidal intent through the enhancement of happiness.

Shea is the director of the Training Institute for Suicide Assessment and Clinical Interviewing, a training and consultation service providing workshops, consultations, and quality assurance design in mental health assessments. He is also an adjunct assistant professor of psychiatry at the Dartmouth Medical School and



Alan Harl, CEO of the Lenape Valley Foundation; Dr. Shawn Shea and Sharon Curran, associate executive director of the Lenape Valley Foundation.

the creator of the interviewing strategy for uncovering suicidal ideation and intent – the Chronological Assessment of Suicide Events (the CASE Approach).

Lenape Valley Foundation is a private, nonprofit provider of cri-

sis, information and referral, treatment, case management, residential, consultation and psycho-educational services.

For information, visit lenapevf.org or call 215-345-5300.

Photographs by Carol Ross



Attendees look over brochures and pamphlets during the intermission of Lenape Valley Foundation's annual Suicide Prevention Conference.



Dr. Shawn Shea speaks at Lenape Valley Foundation's annual Suicide Prevention Conference, Unlocking Suicidal Secrets: New Thoughts on Old Problems in Suicide Prevention.

NOVA offers personal empowerment programs for people with disabilities

Network of Victim Assistance (NOVA) has developed a series of specialized programs around the often complex needs of people with disabilities.

NOVA also delivers the training that provides insight and skills to professionals and caretakers who assist crime victims with disabilities.

"Crime victimization is a traumatic experience for anyone," said Eleanor Wilhelm, NOVA training specialist. "For an individual with a physical, mental or emotional disability, the problems can be even more complex."

NOVA's programs for those with disabilities are designed to help empower them and provide them

with the skills to reduce their risk of victimization. NOVA's trainings for professionals and caretakers build a greater understanding of crime victims' needs so those in helping professions can render more effective and thoughtful assistance.

To arrange for a program or for more information, call Wilhelm at 215-343-6543.

St. Mary receives recognition for quality of care

In recognition of its dedication to process and performance improvements in providing patient care, the St. Mary Heart and Vascular Center Center received the 2014 National Cardiovascular Data Registry Action Registry – GWTG Platinum Performance Achievement Award and the 2014 GOLD-Receiving Mission: Lifeline Quality Improvement Program.

To receive the Action Registry award, presented by the American College of Cardiology Foundation,

St. Mary Medical Center had to provide evidence that treatment guidelines were consistently followed for 24 consecutive months. These included aggressive use in the hospital of medications like cholesterol-lowering drugs, beta-blockers, ACE inhibitors, aspirin, and anticoagulants and emergency angioplasty when appropriate.

Mission: Lifeline, a program created by the American Heart Association, requires that prompt, evidence-based care is consistently provided for consecutive 24-month

intervals for the life-threatening type of heart attack known as ST Elevation Acute Myocardial Infarction (STEMI).

Hospitals that receive the Mission: Lifeline Gold Performance Achievement Award have demonstrated for at least 24 consecutive months that eligible STEMI patients are treated within specific timeframes upon entering the hospital, and are discharged following the American Heart Association's recommended treatment guidelines.

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