

People

Cancer campaign begins

More than 500 volunteers are preparing to bring life-saving information to Wyoming Valley residents this week during the American Cancer Society's annual campaign which takes place during April, Cancer Control Month.

Roxanne Weinberger, Trucksville, 1984 Crusade Chariman, said that many of the 180,000 deaths predicted this year from lung and colorectal cancers could have been avoided through prevention and early detection.

"That's why it's crucial for everyone in Wyoming Valley to learn how they can lower their cancer risk. The folder volunteers will be distributing is a self test on cancer risks for the two most common and deadly forms of cancer—lung cancer and colorectal cancer. We urge everyone to take this test and then practice the cancer safeguards described in the folder," Ms. Weinberger said.

Co-chairmen for the Back Mt. area are Kathy Flack, Sally Lehman and Betty Rogers. Among those assisting them are: Sandy Turner, Susan Davis, Jan Scovell, Jonelle Racusin, Sandy Kabeschat, Sally Rothstein, Lori Williamson, Diane Medura, Jo Specter, Kay Petz, Sheri Aponick, Alda Maturi, Maryellen Moylan, Peg Reinert, Pat Russin, John Sheehan Jr., Heather Sheehan, Lars Ebbesen and Michelle Bren.



Anniversary noted

Members of the "Spark of Life," a local cancer fund-raising group, visited Wilkes-Barre General Hospital recently as the hospital celebrated the one-year anniversary of the opening of cancer care unit's dayroom. "Spark of Life" donated \$5,000 toward the dayroom, which includes a sink, refrigerator, microwave oven, a television and comfortable furnishings - all with the intent of providing a more comfortable, home-like atmosphere for cancer patients and their families. The group has also pledged additional funds to the cancer care unit and for the purchase of oncology-related equipment for the hospital. Shown, seated from left, are members of "Spark of Life", Lois Williams, president, Shavertown; Anita Sgarlat, Wyoming; Rita Albert, treasurer, Wilkes-Barre. Standing, Lorraine Pryor, RN, assistant head nurse, cancer care unit; Dr. David Greenwald, section chief of Oncology at General Hospital; Louis Knaub, vice president - Nursing and Human Resources.



Amy's drawing

Eight-year-old Amy Jo Miers of Dallas, a recent patient in the Pediatrics unit at Wilkes-Barre General Hospital, is shown with her drawing depicting the answer to the question: "What is a Poison?" The second grade student at Dallas Township Elementary School sketched the drawing as part of the hospital's awareness campaign during "National Poison Prevention Week". The hospital's Emergency Services Department, which houses the region's Poison Control Center, sponsored the contest. All participating children received a prize for their efforts.

New heart technique is developed at Ann Arbor

A new diagnostic technique that could eliminate the need for coronary bypass surgery for thousands of patients has been developed by cardiologists at the Ann Arbor, Mich., VA Medical Center and the University of Michigan Medical School.

The new technique, which is described in the January issue of the American Heart Journal, enables doctors to obtain such precise measurements of the heart's blood supply that they can determine immediately whether the patient will require bypass surgery or whether the blocked arteries can be reopened by the simpler, non-surgical procedure known as balloon angioplasty.

Robert A. Vogel, M.D., chief cardiologist at the VA Medical Center and head of the research team, said about 200,000 persons undergo coronary bypass surgery each year. He said that about 20-25 percent of these patients might benefit from the simpler procedure, in which a balloon is inflated inside the artery to spread the artery walls and restore blood flow to the heart.

In addition to being far less costly than bypass surgery, angioplasty is

also much less traumatic. Results are immediate and recuperation is measured in days rather than weeks.

Another advantage is that if angioplasty is the treatment of choice, it can be performed immediately; the balloon is simply inserted through the catheter already in place for the diagnostic procedure.

The new diagnostic technique uses the computer imaging technique developed for bringing back pictures from space to enhance x-ray movies of the blood flow in patients with coronary artery disease.

Because computer enhancement brings out details not visible to the naked eye, Dr. Vogel said, "We can measure the flow of blood to the patient's heart and determine instantly, artery by artery, whether the obstructions are significant: causing a patient's chest pain or other symptoms.

"With these measurements, we can tailor therapy to each patient based on the condition of his arteries," he added.

The system is currently in routine use at the VA Medical Center and is being installed in University of Michigan hospitals as well.

Annual Assembly Dinner is scheduled for April 30

The 42nd Annual Assembly Dinner meeting will be held on Monday, April 30, at 6:30 p.m. in Church of Christ Uniting, Market and Sprague Avenues, Kingston for the Wyoming Valley Council of Churches.

This is the yearly opportunity for the representatives and interested persons to participate in the Council's decision-making process, to share Christian fellowship and receive inspiration for the task of expanding collective ministries.

The Rev. James Wert, pastor, Shavertown United Methodist Church, is serving as this year's chairman and toastmaster, of the annual dinner meeting.

Theme of the event will be "Working Together in Witness and Service." Main speaker will be The Rev. Elizabeth Scott, Pastor, Bethel AME Church, Wilkes-Barre and Director of Justice for Women in

the Division of the Church, and Society with the National Council of Churches.

Frank Paczewski, member, Shavertown United Methodist Church, is president of the Board of Directors and will chair the Business Session.

Wesley Simmers, member, Christ United Presbyterian Church, Wilkes-Barre, will be giving the financial report of the council. He is the treasurer of the Wyoming Valley Council of Churches Board of Directors.

The Rev. George Johnson, pastor, First Welsh Presbyterian Church, will give the Nominating Committee report.

For reservations for the dinner meeting, persons may call the Wyoming Valley Council of Churches, 35 S. Franklin Street, Wilkes-Barre. Cost of the dinner will be \$7.50 per person.

Upcoming events

THE LADIES SOCIETY of St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Noxen, will hold a homemade Vegetable Beef Soup and home made Bread Sale on Saturday, April 14 at the Parish Hall, Main St., Noxen. soup will sell for \$1.50 a quart and bread and rolls will sell for \$1.25 white and \$1.35 whole wheat. Call Tillie Hettes (298-2090) or Ethel Jones (298-2344) on or before April 12. Please bring your own containers for soup. Pickup hours will be between 1 and 3 p.m.

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